



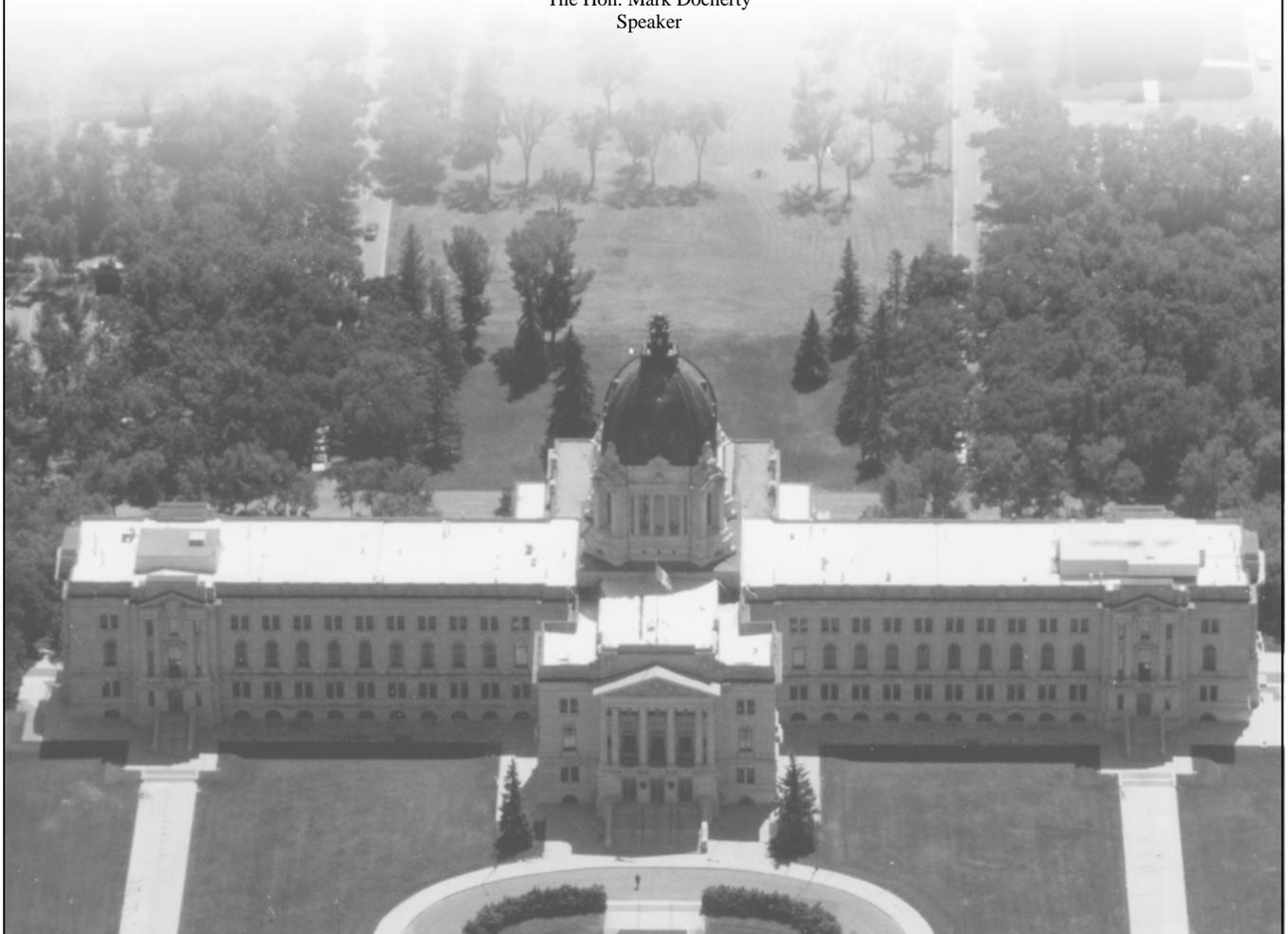
THIRD SESSION - TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)
Published under the
authority of
The Hon. Mark Docherty
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN
3rd Session — 28th Legislature

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Premier — Hon. Scott Moe
Leader of the Opposition — Ryan Meili

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Lawrence , Greg — Moose Jaw Wakamow (SP)	

Party Standings: Saskatchewan Party (SP) — 48; New Democratic Party (NDP) — 13

Clerks-at-the-Table

Clerk — Gregory A. Putz

Law Clerk & Parliamentary Counsel — Kenneth S. Ring, Q.C.

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[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Ruling on a Point of Order

The Speaker: — I have a statement to begin proceedings. Yesterday, November 13, 2018, the Opposition House Leader raised a point of order asserting that during question period, while the Leader of the Opposition was asking a question, the member from Meadow Lake had yelled across the floor, you're making it up. In response to the point of order the Government House Leader stated he had not heard the remark and asked that I review the record.

I do not hear the remark attributed to the member from Meadow Lake, nor did I hear many of the multitude of comments hurled across the floor in this Chamber on a regular basis. I've listened to the audio/video record, but the comments could not be heard. Accordingly, it is impossible for me to rule on this matter. For this reason, I find the point of order unsubstantiated.

Members are well aware that the phrase "making it up" is considered unparliamentary in this Legislative Assembly. Numerous speakers, including myself, have ruled that this language is not to be used in debate or banter across the floor. There was a point of order on this subject not many days ago when a member withdrew the remark and apologized. I would expect that any member that uses unparliamentary language would act honourably by withdrawing the remark and apologizing to the Assembly.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Rural and Remote Health.

Hon. Mr. Ottenbreit: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you to all the members of the Assembly, it's indeed my pleasure this afternoon to introduce two guests in your gallery in the front row. First would be Mr. Jerry Sherman from Embassy Connections Canada out of Ottawa. He's a good friend. He does ministry, chaplaincy work within parliament in Ottawa with ambassadors, members, as well as senators, and does some really significant work there. Actually he's put me to work a couple of times speaking in Ottawa and most recently in Medicine Hat. A very good friend, and we welcome him here today.

Along with him is no stranger to this Assembly, a good friend of mine, mentor, former member from Cypress Hills, Wayne Elhard. So I ask all members to welcome them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. With leave to make a bit of a doubleheader introduction.

The Speaker: — The member has asked for leave for a doubleheader. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to very briefly join with the member from Yorkton in welcoming Mr. Wayne Elhard back to his Legislative Assembly. And normally when I see a water-powered windmill, it's seated over there someplace in the Assembly floor. But anyway it's good to see the former member from Cypress Hills up in the gallery seeing the proceedings here today. We welcome him on behalf of the official opposition.

And while I'm at it, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome a number of public servants who have joined us here today as part of the parliamentary program with the public service. I want to commend them on taking an interest on the political side of public service, the work of the Government of Saskatchewan. It's always a good time on the calendar, Mr. Speaker, always has a great conversation attached to it. So we look forward to visiting with these individuals later today, and again commending these public servants for taking an interest in the political side of public service here in Saskatchewan. But with that, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these very important individuals to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections and Policing.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask leave for an extended introduction, please.

The Speaker: — The minister has asked for an extended introduction. Is leave granted?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — There are 23 public service employees seated in the Speaker's gallery. They are here today to take part in a parliamentary program for the public service. The participants are employees from the following ministries: Agriculture; Environment; Government Relations; Immigration and Career Training; Justice and Attorney General; Parks, Culture and Sport; Public Service Commission; Social Services; as well as the Legislative Assembly Service.

The program includes an in-depth history and tour of our Legislative Building. Briefings will be presented by various branches of the Legislative Assembly Service and Executive Council, an opportunity to sit in the public galleries, as they're doing here today, to observe question period and other House business, and brief meetings with members from both sides of the House and with Mr. Speaker.

I ask all members to join me in welcoming these great public servants to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Mr. Speaker, to you and through you, it's my pleasure to introduce Linda Osachoff, who's just joined us in your gallery. Linda is from Canora, Saskatchewan. She has a long history in the co-operative movement and in governance and management, and she's a real leader in her community. She was also recently elected as the president of Saskatchewan's New Democrats. So we're pleased to have her on board for this effort, a strong leader from rural Saskatchewan who's going to be taking a great role in helping us move towards the next election. So we thank her for her service and ask all the members here to join me in welcoming Linda to her legislature.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Cypress Hills.

Mr. Steele: — Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce a long-time friend and predecessor, Mr. Wayne Elhard, and welcome him back to his Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in the introductions as well and recognize Wayne Elhard here as well from the other side, from Cypress Hills. Did a great job in the House. And as well, Linda.

But I do have several people I would like to introduce from the floor, if I could, that are visiting here today: Transportation for All, an advocacy group that have come here to listen to some very serious proceedings in the House. And these are people who live with disabilities, have been forced to come together to form an advocacy group because of some of the choices this government has made. So they're here to watch our proceedings.

So on the floor today we have Jamie Ellis. Jamie is here with his caregiver, Tina Millar. Charlene Eger, Judy Winship, Michael Huck is here as well with Shirley Toth. Terri Sleeva is here as well — oh, there you are, Terri; right there — with caregivers MacKenzie Kotylak and Tenille Richard. I should mention that Terri won this year the Global Citizen annual award this year. Shane Haddad is here. Shane is here, yes; and Georgina Heselton with caregiver Alan Heselton.

I should mention in the Speaker's gallery there are several friends as well of this group. Lynn Murray is here, if you could give a wave. Chelsea Flook, Dylan Morin, as well as JoAnne Jaffe and Bob Bymoen, president of SGEU [Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union].

And so these folks have come. This is their legislature, and they're looking forward to hearing the proceedings today. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Merriman: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to join in all members in welcoming Wayne Elhard back to his Legislative Assembly. And I want to welcome the guests that are on the floor and in the gallery, as the member opposite alluded to. We've got Jamie Ellis, Charlene Eger, Judy Winship, Mike Huck, Terri Sleeva, Shane Haddad, and Georgina Heselton and all of their caregivers and family. I welcome them to their

Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise this afternoon and introduce 25 grade 10 students from Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, seated in the east gallery. I'd like to welcome each of these students to their Legislative Assembly, and I look forward to meeting with them afterwards. I know that their teacher who's with them today, Ms. Michelle McKillop, does a very good job of making sure that they are here with good questions, and they always have a keen eye on the proceedings. So I look forward to their questions later this afternoon. In the meantime, I'd like to have all members join me in welcoming them to their Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — I'd like to join with the members opposite and the members on this side in welcoming Bob Bymoen to the legislature today. As people are aware, he is the president of Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union and has a long history of being a strong advocate for workers' rights. And I regard him as a friend and a partner on issues like workplace safety, workplace training. I know there's certainly bumps on the road as we go along, but having said that, Mr. Speaker, I regard him as a friend and look forward to continuing to work with him as we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To you and through you, I'd like to introduce two individuals seated in your gallery. First, no stranger to this Assembly, my constituency assistant Nathaniel Cole is here. Today he's joined by his cousin Ryder Farnsworth who is from Lampman, Saskatchewan. He's on a take-your-kid-to-work-day day, but it's take-your-cousin-to-work day for Nathaniel and Ryder today. So he's been shadowing my CA [constituency assistant] around for the day, and he's watching question period today for the first time.

He's in grade 9. He is a big sports fan. I understand he recently won volleyball districts, and he's really into curling and hockey and also plays with an elite lacrosse team in the summertime. So from what I understand, he's not super into politics but he's really into sports, so he'll have a fairly interesting day today. I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming Nathaniel, but more importantly, Ryder, to their Legislative Assembly.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to present a petition from the citizens who are opposed to the federal government's decision to impose a carbon tax on the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, these people who have signed this petition believe, as we do on this side of the House, that a carbon tax would be detrimental to our economy without doing anything to actually reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Here in Saskatchewan we're more focused on technology and industries to reduce those emissions, and we have been seeing great success, Mr. Speaker. For example, Saskatchewan agriculture annually sequesters 11.9 million tonnes of CO₂. Our carbon capture project down at Boundary dam 3 has now sequestered over 2 million tonnes of CO₂. That's like taking 500,000 cars off the road.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan take the following action: to cause the Government of Saskatchewan to take the necessary steps to stop the federal government from imposing a carbon tax on the province.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by the citizens of Maymont, Fielding, North Battleford, Battleford, Cut Knife. I do so present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition calling on the government to stop the attack on our already strained classrooms. Those who have signed this petition wish to draw our attention to a number of points: that the Sask Party has cut \$54 million from classrooms in the 2017-18 budget and that the 2018-19 budget only restored a fraction of that cut; even though the Sask Party is making us all pay more, our kids are actually getting less; and the Sask Party cuts mean that students will lose and are losing much-needed supports in their classroom including funding for buses for kindergarteners and programs to help students with special needs.

[13:45]

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the government to fully restore the senseless cuts to our kids' classrooms and stop making families, teachers, and everyone who works in education pay the price for the Sask Party's mismanagement.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed the petition today reside in Moose Jaw. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm rising to present a petition calling for a public inquiry into the GTH [Global Transportation Hub] land deal. The citizens of Saskatchewan who have signed this petition wish to bring to our attention the following: first of all, the Sask Party has refused to come clean on the GTH land deal, a deal where Sask Party insiders made millions flipping land and taxpayers lost millions; the Sask Party continues to block key witnesses from providing testimony about the land deal; and it is Saskatchewan people who footed the bill for the GTH land deal and deserve nothing less than the truth.

I'll read the prayer, Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to stop hiding behind partisan excuses and immediately call for a judicial inquiry and a forensic audit into the GTH land deal.

And, Mr. Speaker, the individuals who signed the petition today are from the city of Moose Jaw. I so submit.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition to get big money out of Saskatchewan politics. And the undersigned residents of the province of Saskatchewan want to bring to your attention the following: that Saskatchewan's outdated election Act allows corporations, unions, and individuals, even those living outside the province, to make unlimited donations to our province's political parties.

And we know that the people of Saskatchewan deserve to live in a fair province where all voices are equal and money can't influence politics. But we also know that over the past 10 years, the Saskatchewan Party has received \$12.61 million in corporate donations. Of that, \$2.87 million come from companies outside Saskatchewan. Mr. Speaker, I think we believe that Saskatchewan politics should belong to people, Saskatchewan people, and that the federal government and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia have moved to limit this influence and level the playing field by banning corporate and union donations to political parties.

Mr. Speaker:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Government of Saskatchewan call on the Sask Party to overhaul Saskatchewan's campaign finance laws to end out-of-province donations, to put a ban on donations from corporations and unions, and to put a donation limit on individual donations.

Mr. Speaker, the people signing this petition come from the city of Regina. I do so present. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present a petition in support of in-house security services at Saskatchewan health care facilities. These citizens wish to bring to your attention that the Government of Saskatchewan security services review in the Saskatchewan Health Authority appears to be driven by a desire to contract out and cut costs rather than improve safety in health care; that the reviews led under the same consultant in BC [British Columbia] and Alberta resulted in the privatization of security services and the loss of 100 jobs; that front-line workers have the solutions to address increased violence and safety concerns in public health care — more in-house staff, proper equipment and training, and improved incident reporting and follow-up; and that safe, quality health care means having adequately staffed, properly trained and equipped in-house security team, not cutting jobs and contracting out to the lowest private bidder.

I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call upon the government to commit to maintaining quality publicly funded, publicly delivered, and publicly administered security services.

These citizens that have signed this petition today come from Saskatoon. I do so present.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition from citizens who want to restore public control over Wascana Park. These citizens want to bring to our attention that Wascana Park is a treasured urban park and conservation area that has been responsibly managed through an equal partnership between the city of Regina, the provincial government, and the University of Regina for over 50 years.

They want to bring our attention to the fact that the government unilaterally gave itself majority control on the board of the Provincial Capital Commission through changes brought on by Bill 50, *The Provincial Capital Commission Act* in 2017.

They want to bring our attention to the fact that the city of Regina and the University of Regina have both expressed an openness to return to a governance model based on equality, and that more and more people in Regina and across Saskatchewan are becoming concerned with the growing commercialization of Wascana Park and want to see it stopped.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to read the prayer:

We, in the prayer that reads as follows, respectfully request that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan call on the government to restore the governance structure of the Wascana Centre Authority and end the commercialization of Wascana Park.

Mr. Speaker, those who have signed the petition are from across multiple places in the city of Regina, including Regina Pasqua.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Riversdale.

Crocus Co-operative Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Ms. Chartier: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to congratulate Crocus Co-operative on celebrating its 35th anniversary. This non-profit organization continues to provide cost-effective mental health rehabilitation services in Saskatoon. It currently has about 300 active members a month and about 1,800 lifetime members.

Incorporated in 1983, this drop-in centre for people diagnosed with a mental illness was founded by individuals who were concerned about the lack of transitional care for people with mental illness. Crocus Co-op has a variety of programs available to its members. There is a work program that provides

employment for members, including lawn care, snow removal, and garbage hauls. In 2017 Crocus provided casual employment for 87 of its members. There is a kitchen program where members can buy an inexpensive meal and learn how to cook those meals. Crocus Co-op also has a social program that provides recreational and educational activities.

This co-op continues to be a place of support and respect. It challenges the stigma of mental illness with programs that provide tangible opportunities and significant benefits for its members while enriching the larger community. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating Crocus Co-operative on reaching this wonderful milestone and to thank them for all that they do in our community of Saskatoon. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for The Battlefords.

Innovative Project Prepares Students for Graduation

Mr. Cox: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to highlight a new initiative of our Living Sky School Division working to improve school graduation rates. This project is called Class Of and it certainly is a result of outside-of-the-box strategic planning. Mr. Speaker, the first Class Of was the class of 2030, and I was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of our government at McKitrick School in September of 2017.

This year I attended the ceremony for the class of 2031 at Bready School. The kindergarten pupils are presented with T-shirts saying "Class of 2031" which will be their high school graduating year. The T-shirts are far too big but represent the size they will be when they graduate.

Another motivating idea is the concept that it takes a community to raise a child, and I must commend our community leaders and business people for helping to sponsor this program and for their continued support throughout the students' journey through their education.

Director of education Brenda Vickers says they are already seeing positive results in attendance levels for their students compared to other classes. To quote her recent comment, "It's really turned into more than anything we thought it would be." Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating and thanking the Living Sky School Division on this innovative and successful initiative to help improve our graduation rates. Best of luck, class of '31.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Continued Success for Girls Rock Regina

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a great organization in Regina. Girls Rock Regina aims to give self-identified female, trans, two-spirit, and gender non-conforming youth and adults the opportunity and confidence to participate in Regina's local music scene.

This past July they hosted their annual Girls Rock Camp at the University of Regina, which culminated in a showcase performance on July 21st at the Exchange. Participants at the

camp take part in various workshops to learn how to play an instrument, write a song, and perform their original compositions as a band in front of family, friends, and supporters at a live music venue.

Girls Rock Regina and their camp are vital in our community to encourage and foster interest in participating in rock music. The more representation women have and the more they see people like themselves in the live music community, the more they are encouraged to participate. I had the pleasure of spending a few days volunteering with the camp this summer, and I was honoured to spend time with this group of Regina leaders that I admire so much.

I'd like to ask all members to join me in congratulating co-founders Danielle Sakundiak, Amanda Scandress, and org crew Jen Moser Aitken, Amber Goodwyn, Leo Keiser, Charity Marsh, and Brittney MacFarlane on another successful year. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Churchill-Wildwood.

Groundbreaking Research Using Aerosol Limb Imager

Ms. Lambert: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am delighted to stand in the House and recognize a brilliant Ph.D. [Doctor of Philosophy] student and constituent of mine, Matt Kozun. Working alongside the Canadian Space Agency, a University of Saskatchewan research team has launched a particle imaging device into the edge of space to study the cooling effects of aerosol particles on a warming climate.

Mr. Speaker, with assistance from his professor Adam Bourassa and a U of S [University of Saskatchewan] research team, Matt has improved the design of a high-resolution imaging device called ALI, or aerosol limb imager, that can help study aerosols in the stratosphere. The research team has been developing this prototype device since 2013. ALI was tested in the high atmosphere at 35 kilometres above earth, using special balloons larger than a football field.

Mr. Speaker, the cooling effect of aerosols are of particular interest to the scientific community. This work will help scientists understand how aerosols work and how aerosols affect climate. It could help meteorologists predict weather more accurately in the future.

I'm immensely proud that our Saskatchewan researchers are making an impressive impact on the science community. Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members join me in congratulating my constituent Matt Kozun and his team on this groundbreaking research. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Canora-Pelly.

Veregin Grain Elevator Designated a Provincial Heritage Property

Mr. Dennis: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Grain elevators are to Saskatchewan what lighthouses are to Prince Edward Island. They are iconic structures, symbols of our past and present. They are a representation of the importance of grain farming in our

province.

The Government of Saskatchewan understands the importance of preserving our province's heritage and the stories behind it. Through the provincial heritage property designation, our government legally protects the important pieces of our history and ensures the stories are told.

The Veregin Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood grain elevator is one of the most recent structures to be designated by the provincial heritage property. This grain elevator, located 50 miles northeast of Yorkton, was built by the Doukhobor residents 110 years ago. It is one of the oldest known grain elevators in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, first appearing in Saskatchewan in the 1880s, wood crib grain elevators were a standard method of construction over 100 years ago. At one time there were over 3,000 grain elevators in Saskatchewan. Today, however, there are less than 500 elevators still standing. Thankfully, through the provincial heritage property program, the Veregin Christian Community of Universal Brotherhood grain elevator will be preserved for many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Moose Jaw North.

Habitat for Humanity Key Ceremony in Moose Jaw

Mr. Michelson: — Thank you. Mr. Speaker, last week on November the 7th, I had the privilege of representing our government at the Habitat for Humanity key ceremony in Moose Jaw, where another deserving Saskatchewan family became homeowners for the first time.

Our government, in partnership with the Government of Canada, contributed \$50,000 to assist Habitat for Humanity and the homeowner to build this new home. This funding was made possible through the federal-provincial social infrastructure fund. And from a generous, special, great . . . the generosity of one citizen, the land for the new home was anonymously donated to the local family. Mr. Speaker, this is just one of the many outstanding examples of how people can work together to make affordable housing a reality for Saskatchewan families.

Saskatchewan's overall commitment to Habitat for Humanity totals \$10.85 million since March of 2009. To date Habitat for Humanity has built seven homes for low-income families in Moose Jaw alone. Additionally our government has invested \$380,000 to assist Habitat for Humanity build these homes.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a vision for Saskatchewan and its citizens. This vision includes safe, quality, affordable housing. We will continue to stand with the people of Saskatchewan to keep building a better province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[14:00]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon University.

Saskatoon Teacher Receives Indigenous Educator Award

Mr. Olason: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This November

educators from across Canada attended the 2018 Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Awards. These awards are presented by Indspire, a national indigenous organization that invests in the education of indigenous people by connecting educators of K to 12 [kindergarten to grade 12] indigenous students with programs and the professional learning community to improve their education outcomes, increase high school completion rates, and support sustained systemic change.

Cort Dogniez from St. Michael Community School was honoured for his community service. Mr. Speaker, Cort is an innovative and inspiring leader in his community. This past year Cort set up a prospector's tent right in his classroom to create a unique experience and setting for his students to learn about his family's heritage and the Métis culture here in Saskatchewan. He got the idea from a photo he had of his grandfather sitting on his horse in front of the family tent while his family was on the move. This photo inspired him to tell his grandfather's stories and created an experience his students wouldn't forget.

Mr. Speaker, Guiding the Journey honourees are acknowledged for having innovative teaching practices, and recognizes the hard work and dedication of each educator to their students, guiding them to be future leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that all members please join me in congratulating Cort Dogniez on his achievement and thank him for his leadership in education and his community. Thank you.

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Review of Circumstances Involving Government Employees and Vendors

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last few years millions of dollars in contracts have been awarded to companies that have donated to the Sask Party. Now that's concerning enough, but questions are now arising about how deeply that culture goes into the rest of the government, how deeply that culture of rewarding gifts with contracts extends into other areas.

Our critic raised questions with eHealth last May in committee, and there was very little transparency, very little information shared from this government. However in committee she was able to discover that a law firm had investigated employee trips that were paid for by vendors to eHealth, and that investigation resulted in three people being fired.

Mr. Speaker, when we asked the ministry if that report would be made public, the deputy minister said that they lean towards transparency, that that would be good practice. But that report has yet to be made public. And we wrote the ministry, asked for that report to be made public and asked for them to convene a special meeting of the Public Accounts Committee so that we could get to the bottom of this. Our FOI [freedom of information] request turned up 28 pages of redacted information, and whistle-blowers have identified trips to Las Vegas and to the Indy 500.

Mr. Speaker, what I'd like to know is when did the Premier become aware that public employees were attending luxury

events paid for by the vendors to whom they were rewarding contracts? Will he release that investigative report, and will he convene that Public Accounts Committee meeting so we can get to the bottom of what's been going on at eHealth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as soon as this issue came to light, the board of directors of eHealth, I believe, acted entirely appropriately. As the member opposite stated, they brought in outside legal counsel. They conducted a review. They made recommendations to the board, which the board followed. That review essentially said that proper code of conduct policies weren't being followed, Mr. Speaker, and it involved the termination of those employees.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to remember there has been transparency through this process, Mr. Speaker. I had directed eHealth to inform the Provincial Auditor of all matters around this. They had already done so, Mr. Speaker.

This is an HR [human resources] matter; however, there tends to be some legal issues around that. So, Mr. Speaker, obviously the minister doesn't do the hiring and firing but, Mr. Speaker, from everything I've seen I think the board of directors of eHealth has handled this appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is hardly an isolated event, and it's hardly a new practice. The employee that's at the centre of this has admitted that this has been going on for several years. We have asked for this report to be made public. The minister says there's been transparency. We're expecting to see that report. We're expecting to have a chance to properly dig into this issue because while WBM, Dell, and Lexmark were paying for eHealth employee trips, they were awarded millions of dollars in public contracts.

This is no small matter, Mr. Speaker. One of those employees acknowledged pushing eHealth to deepen their relationship with Lexmark, a company that had flown him to the PGA [Professional Golfers' Association] championships. Mr. Speaker, this is exactly why we have conflict of interest legislation, and it proved to be, in this case, conflict of interest for eHealth. That's why those employees lost their job. However, it wasn't conflict of interest for SHR [Saskatoon Health Region] employees who were on the same trips.

Up to now, up to yesterday, the Saskatchewan Health Authority was suggesting that that practice was just fine. They've now changed their tune under further scrutiny. But really, Mr. Speaker, conflict of interest regulations should be strong enough to protect the public. They shouldn't just come into place when the government wants to avoid bad PR [public relations].

So my question, again to the Premier — and I would really like to hear what he has to say on this — will he lean toward transparency? Will he table a list of all the vendor-paid travel that has gone on for eHealth employees, for health region officials, for all government employees so that we can understand just how deeply this culture of junkets for contracts goes in this government?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, first of all I would go back to the start of the Leader of the Opposition's comments. Mr. Speaker, again to clarify, the legal advice that the board of directors sought and were given is that while this didn't follow proper code of conduct, it wasn't criminal in nature, is the advice that they were given by outside legal counsel, Mr. Speaker. And I would again reiterate, let's not lose sight of the fact, Mr. Speaker, these employees were terminated for this. They weren't following the code of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the member's points about the Saskatoon Health Region, that's very valid. I think it points to just one more reason why it was important to amalgamate all the health regions, Mr. Speaker, so that we have uniformity across the entire province. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the board Chair and the CEO [chief executive officer] of the Saskatchewan Health Authority to expedite that review. I'd like to put this in the proper context, Mr. Speaker. There are, I believe, in excess of 14,000 policies across the piece, Mr. Speaker, from the various health regions. So when they were amalgamated, Mr. Speaker, obviously that review needed to start. There's many to go through. I've asked them to expedite this one. Thank you.

The Speaker: — I remind the member to address the Chair. I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we've come across the Sask Party's new slogan for the upcoming election: not criminal in nature. That seems to be the excuse that they come up with whenever there's a scandal, well it didn't amount to charges.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty low bar to set when you've got very deep concerns about the way that this government has operated when it comes to transparency, when it comes to making sure that contracts are awarded because that's the best value for what people of Saskatchewan need, not because those are friends of the Sask Party or those are folks who are able to pony up plane tickets. You know, millions of dollars for Lexmark and other companies, that's a pretty good return for a few fancy flights, Mr. Speaker.

So my question once again is just that very simple question. Will the minister table the report? And will he come out with a full list of all the vendor-paid travel that has gone on under his government? How widespread is this practice or is this only eHealth?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. Reiter: — Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, this is an HR matter, so I'll seek advice on the release of that. Typically matters of HR aren't made public. I'll look into that matter, Mr. Speaker.

But I would just reiterate, while the member made light of the fact that it wasn't a criminal matter, I think that's very important. The legal advice that was obtained was that while this wasn't criminal in nature, it didn't follow proper code of conduct. And, Mr. Speaker, let's not lose sight of this. Those employees paid a huge price for this. They were dismissed from their employment.

Mr. Speaker, as far as the current policy in the Saskatoon Health Region, as I said, we're looking for policies that are going to be uniform across the province, Mr. Speaker. I've asked the board Chair and the CEO to review this and to expedite that review. And I look forward to their reporting back to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Land Transactions and Viability of the Global Transportation Hub

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course the people of the province expect management of their funds that is without controversy because it's not influenced by who people's friends are or whether they're getting fancy trips, Mr. Speaker. This has been an issue on a number of cases, including the GTH, where we saw land flipped, land sold in ways that made friends of the Sask Party very wealthy. And now we see a Premier who says he's going to walk away, that that project is a bust, so he's going to find a way out of it.

So my question for the Premier is, what's his plan for this? Because right now no one's buying the GTH. No one's buying land at the GTH. And no one's buying the lines that everything's just fine, that as long as there's no criminal charges, there's nothing to worry about.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the only way to revive this failed effort is to clear the cloud of stink that surrounds the GTH. And the only way to do that is to get to the bottom of it with a judicial inquiry so that the people of Saskatchewan and potential tenants at the GTH can know that they won't see their name dragged further into a fiasco.

So my question is, what does the government have to lose? It's not like land sales could go down. They can't get any worse than zero acres in the last year. Mr. Speaker, why won't the Premier take his seatmate's advice and clear the air with a judicial inquiry into the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this is a question that's come up before. We want the GTH to flourish. We want it to grow. We want it to serve the residents of Regina, the residents of Regina, and do right by the employees that work there and by the clients that are already there.

Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Auditor identified areas where the government could have done better on its land acquisition. Those recommendations from the Provincial Auditor have been received. The Provincial Auditor had full and complete access to everything, including all cabinet documents.

After that, members opposite made a complaint to the RCMP [Royal Canadian Mounted Police], as they're absolutely entitled to do. The RCMP investigated, not a quick investigation, not a come by and look at a couple of files — 7,500 hours, a thorough and competent investigation. They sent the files to their office in Ottawa so it could be reviewed by their experts there. Mr. Speaker, it came back and they said there was no indication of wrongdoing, no indication of criminality. And, Mr. Speaker,

we're going to proceed to do what's right for the people of Saskatchewan.

The Speaker: — I recognize the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Meili: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Mr. Speaker, for three years the GTH has hung like an albatross around the neck of this government. This GTH was to boost our economy. It was to be bigger than the railway, Mr. Speaker. But instead, it's turned out to be a curse, millions of dollars wasted on Bill Boyd's legacy project with no evidence of it adding up to anything more than a loss for the people of Saskatchewan.

Land sales have flatlined. I'd say that this government couldn't even give land away at the GTH, but that seems to be one thing they are able to do. Debt is growing. Truck traffic is barely 10 per cent of what was predicted. And, Mr. Speaker, in committee we asked how could this government rid themselves, and we discover that there is no way for them to give away or sell the GTH, what is essentially a municipality. So my question is, the Premier wants to walk away from this. What's the plan? How does he intend to do so, and how much is it going to cost us?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, a planned divestiture of the GTH has to happen. It has to be done in a competent, disciplined, professional manner. It can't be done on the floor of the Assembly, and it can't be done in backroom deals on napkins. It's got to be done with the assistance of professional people that will manage and market the land inventory that's there.

There has to be things that will ensure that the services that are being provided to the GTH clients continue to be served, so that we can have companies like Loblaw continuing to be there, so we have companies like CP [Canadian Pacific Railway] continuing to be there. We have companies like Loblaw that after the Piapot fire sent a truckload of water out to Piapot. Didn't ask for it, didn't do a news release, just sent it out.

Those are the type of people we want in this province, as well as, Mr. Speaker, we want the \$485 million that was there in private investment, the 860 full-time jobs that exist at the GTH. And, Mr. Speaker, they talk about no trucks. Well, Mr. Speaker, they were complaining yesterday about too many trucks going through. Well, Mr. Speaker, the count is 4,800 every week go in and out of the GTH.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, this government expropriated significant blocks of farm land to create a route for the Regina bypass and to establish the GTH. Expropriation is an important tool for government, and it's important that landowners trust the process. But because some well-connected insiders got rich in backroom land-flipping deals, this government became embroiled in dozens of lawsuits with farmers and landowners over the land acquisition process.

Now I'm sure the minister will agree that the way that the government has acquired land and their refusal to clear the air is causing anxiety and distrust amongst farmers and landowners. Will the minister do the right thing and call a judicial inquiry that

the Saskatchewan people deserve?

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Highways.

Hon. Ms. Carr: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the member opposite for the question. You know, he's asking about the land acquisitions. So you know, currently there are lawsuits ongoing there. We have 19 landowners with outstanding claims. Originally there were 23. Now four have settled, so there are only 19 left.

Before these cases actually go to court, there are several options available to these landowners. We actually meet with the landowners and see if there's additional information that is needed. And then we have the option of mediation. We can do something that's called binding appraisal or we can even do binding arbitration with these people. There are several options available to them, and they are all treated fairly.

If all of these efforts, at the end of the day, are not successful, the matter may proceed to court where a judge, and not the government, will determine the fair value for the landowner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer, it's clear to me that the RCMP found evidence of wrongdoing in their GTH investigation. The minister keeps claiming the opposite, but if that was the case, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP never would have referred it to the Manitoba prosecutors. If that was the case, the Manitoba prosecutors would've told the RCMP to immediately drop it. If that was the case, when the RCMP made their final announcement, they would have said so. But the RCMP carefully chose their words, and they left it ambiguous. Three occasions, Mr. Speaker, three times the RCMP declined to say the words that the minister so desperately wanted to hear.

Criminal charges are far too low of a bar for how the government should conduct itself. The people of this province deserve to trust the process when their land is expropriated. Again, will the minister call a judicial inquiry into the land acquisition fiasco at the GTH?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is relatively new in the House, and, Mr. Speaker, he was not here when the GTH report was released. He was not here when the RCMP chose to do a news conference. So, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the member opposite, I will tell him this. The RCMP chose to do a news conference. They don't usually do that. Mr. Speaker, they also told us 7,500 hours were spent. They told us the file was sent to their office in Ottawa.

And, Mr. Speaker, when they invest that much time and effort, they want to make sure it's looked at carefully. So they send it to the prosecutors for a final review to say, this is what we think took place. This is what we think happened. So they sent it to Manitoba to make sure that it was not tainted by anybody in this province. Totally independence of . . . [inaudible]. Somebody in

Manitoba spent a significant amount of time looking at it.

And this is what the RCMP had to say when they were at that press conference. They said there was no evidence of any criminal wrongdoing. Not only did they say that, the question was put to them, did you have to get a search warrant? Did you get a search warrant? And the RCMP said no, we didn't need one because everything was provided. But if we would've needed one, we wouldn't have gotten one because there was no evidence of criminality.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Mr. Speaker, we have been demanding answers on why and how the Sask Party government bought and sold — or not, as the case may be — land at the money-losing GTH. The Minister Responsible for the GTH refuses to provide Saskatchewan people with the answers they're looking for, blaming a non-disclosure deal signed with Loblaw.

Let's be clear. We're not asking the minister to provide the dollar figure that Loblaw paid this government. All we are asking is that the minister confirms that land which they expropriated from a farmer was in turn paid for, not given away.

According to *Forbes* magazine, Mr. Galen Weston, chairman of Loblaw's conglomerate, has seen his net worth climb by \$5 billion since 2009. In that same time period, Saskatchewan public debt has climbed by over \$10 billion since 2009, thanks to this government's financial decision-making skills, which appear to be summed up nicely by this debacle.

So to the minister: did cash exchange hands or not?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, this government is bound by a confidentiality agreement. Mr. Speaker, we're not going to breach that accountability, that confidentiality agreement, not now, and certainly not on the floor of this Chamber. If the member opposite wants to come in and sign a confidentiality agreement herself, we'd be glad to have a different kind of discussion with her. But maybe she doesn't want to have that because she wants to continue this.

I'll tell you something about the member opposite. I have a quote. I have a quote from the member opposite:

Certainly we know that there's a need for this kind of economic promise [talking about the GTH, of course] and the way it speaks to economic development and diversification that, you know, this certainly we support as the official opposition. These are areas that need government support, and we're happy to see that that's occurring here at the Global Transportation Hub.

That was a number of years ago, Mr. Speaker. But that was the starting point for the member for Saskatoon Nutana. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd urge the member from Saskatoon Nutana to go out there, meet with the members of UFCW [United Food & Commercial Workers] that are there, and sit down and have a careful look at this project.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Sproule: — Once again no answer from that minister, Mr. Speaker. It bears repeating: it appears that this government gave away Saskatchewan farm land to one of the richest families in Canada — land that they took away from Saskatchewan farmers, expropriated for public purposes with public dollars. The minister speaks of jobs at Loblaw, but the minister fails to point out that many of those jobs already existed at the former facility in Saskatoon.

But that's not the point. If construction and job creation, if construction and job creation were this government's objectives when it gave the Weston family a prime piece of Saskatchewan farm land, what other corporations can expect the same treatment? If the litmus test is jobs, well then it seems that virtually any company or corporation in Saskatchewan deserves the same treatment. After all, this is the Sask Party government that insists it doesn't pick winners or losers.

So my question now for the minister is, where can any and all job-creating businesses in Saskatchewan line up for their fair share of free land?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I'll tell the member opposite where things go under the NDP [New Democratic Party]. Mr. Speaker, under the NDP we saw dozens of businesses and literally thousands of people pack up and move to Calgary.

Mr. Speaker, the facility that Westfair Foods was using was in Saskatoon. They outgrew that facility and indicated they were moving to Alberta. Mr. Speaker, we didn't want that to happen. We didn't want people taking their suitcases to Alberta like those 400-plus jobs that were in Saskatoon. We wanted to see them grow those jobs to 800 jobs right here in this province — people that are taxpayers, people that are sending their kids to our schools, people who have careers and futures in those schools.

Mr. Speaker, if the members opposite don't want that, they can go to Calgary. They can see a lot of Saskatchewan expats that are there. Our goal is keeping people here and bringing people back because that's what Saskatchewan is all about now. Under the NDP it was never like that. It was pack up your bags and go.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Provision of Bus Service

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we know some famous people from that side who've packed their bags and gone to Alberta, don't we? We do for sure.

Mr. Speaker, today we are joined in the Assembly by members of the advocacy group, Transportation for All. These individuals are no strangers to this Assembly. They attended question period many times since this government has decided to sell off STC [Saskatchewan Transportation Company].

Private companies have not filled the gap, and the loss of this vital public service is hurting people and costing us all. STC connected people and provided freight to over 200 communities

here in Saskatchewan. Since the Sask Party decided to sell off STC, the people of Saskatchewan have been left with a patchwork of private systems that leave people isolated and feeling trapped in their own communities.

The federal government recently announced a program to help provide transportation in communities affected by the closure of Greyhound, but this government has refused to sign on. To the minister: how can this minister justify leaving federal dollars on the table when so many people are struggling with no transportation at all?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. Just to, you know, correct the member opposite, there was no sell-off. STC was wound down, Mr. Speaker.

In relation to the announcement by the federal minister the other day, Mr. Speaker, the federal minister has not provided any details to any province, any jurisdiction, about what that might include, Mr. Speaker. I have attempted to contact them a number of times, and we're still waiting for his reply, Mr. Speaker.

I've got to remind the members opposite, Mr. Speaker, you know, the member alluded to the number of communities that had STC being under half of the province. And I want to remind him who previously shut down those routes in this province. It was under that government, the NDP government, that they shut down routes. And to those people living on those routes, Mr. Speaker, that was the same as winding down STC to those people that live in those towns that were abandoned. So that's what's happening, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, STC was a sell-off. Mr. Speaker, Greyhound has shut down their prairie services, and private transportation companies have come and gone. And still, people in this gallery today, are with us today, are left stranded and forced to be prisoners in their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, despite the minister's weak advice that those with disabilities or mobility issues simply, and I quote, "call a friend or a family member for their transportation needs," Mr. Speaker, the people are fighting back. They are pursuing the Sask Party government's STC sell-off, a violation of their human rights.

Is the minister comfortable with the idea that the sell-off, the sell-off of STC may be a violation of the rights of people with disabilities here in Saskatchewan?

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Crown Investments.

Hon. Mr. Hargrave: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll correct the member again. There was no sell-off of STC; STC was wound down, Mr. Speaker. It was a very difficult decision, but it was wound down.

I've got to remind the member opposite, our government is providing over \$3.5 million in operating and capital funding to 78 different municipalities as part of the 2018-19 budget to assist in the transit of people with disabilities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there's been many, many private enterprises start up. And many are continuing and expanding, Mr. Speaker, as he may know if he would watch TV or read the paper. He'll see Rider Express, for example, is now taking over some of the routes that Greyhound had, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it was an unsustainable amount of money that that was going to cost over the next five years, at \$85 million, Mr. Speaker. And that's why STC had to be wound down, years too late.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 149 — *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 149, *The Police (Regional Policing) Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 149 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

Bill No. 150 — *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2018*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Corrections.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — I move that Bill No. 150, *The Seizure of Criminal Property Amendment Act, 2018* be now introduced and read a first time.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the minister that Bill No. 150 be now introduced and read a first time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Law Clerk and Parliamentary Counsel: — First reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — When shall this bill be read a second time? I recognize the minister.

Hon. Ms. Tell: — Next sitting of the House.

The Speaker: — Next sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

ADJOURNED DEBATES

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 132

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Duncan that **Bill No. 132 — *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Northeast.

[14:30]

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that climate change is one of the most important issues facing us in this generation. It's not a question of if we act; it's a question of we must act. And we need to get on that.

Mr. Speaker, the previous NDP government set aside almost \$400 million to help Saskatchewan consumers and businesses reduce their carbon footprint, and as soon as this government formed office, that fund was dissipated. What this government did do was they brought in a bill all the way back in 2008, the precursor to Bill 132, and they eventually passed that bill and, Mr. Speaker, it sat on the books doing nothing, collecting dust for the last decade. It's seen a few tweaks here and there but has never yet been proclaimed in force. And now we have yet a third version, a third tweak on the bill, Mr. Speaker, of how the government is proposing to address large emitters who put greenhouse gases into the air.

It's curious, the timing on this change. It certainly seems like this government has been dragged kicking and screaming by the impetus of the federal legislation that has been brought. But regardless of that, Mr. Speaker, even a small amount of action on greenhouse gases is better than no action. Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid that if we don't have some action, what we'll be left with is debating whether we should put our foot on the brake or on the gas pedal as the car is already sailing over the cliff. And that, Mr. Speaker, is not an acceptable outcome.

Mr. Speaker, one of the problems with this bill is it's just sadly lacking in detail. The detail of what the government is actually going to do is missing. In their announcements, we see many targets of 10 per cent for some of the regulated industries. For some of them we see 5 per cent. For some of them we see 15 per cent. But of course those targets aren't actually in the bill. We're told that those targets will be in the regulations. And although we've asked for the regulations, those regulations have not been provided to us in advance. Mr. Speaker, we'd like to get those regulations in advance so that we can see what exactly the government is proposing — in detail — to do on this very issue.

Mr. Speaker, we need more details on how the government intends to promote and coordinate and fund initiatives related to climate change and greenhouse gas reduction in our province. Mr. Speaker, we believe that there needs to be more transparency with respect to the administration of the technology fund. We believe that there are some gaps in this bill that we can't answer without seeing the regulations. Will there ever be a dime paid into the technology fund?

Mr. Speaker, Meyers Norris Penny in their report mentioned that:

From a policy design and fairness perspective [that] there is a strong rationale to include early action credits as a component of the Saskatchewan program. Additional consideration needs to be given to the policy design of this area.

That was coming from their report on page 22.

Mr. Speaker, we agree that we think that that is something that we need to see. We need to see whether this bill is actually going to result in early action. We need to know whether the regulations are going to inspire action or simply reward emitters for what they have already done.

We're also concerned, Mr. Speaker, because our understanding is that SaskPower and upstream oil and gas, particularly methane emissions, will not be covered by this bill. And of course, Mr. Speaker, both SaskPower and the upstream oil and gas methane emissions are a significant component of our greenhouse gases in this province, and one of the ways that we need to look at our footprint.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we've only learned from the announcements that the government has made on this is that this bill, and presumably the draft regulations that they have in mind, will only reduce our provincial greenhouse gas footprint by 1 per cent by 2030. Mr. Speaker, the IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] has called for a reduction of 45 per cent. And Canada is one of the highest per capita emitters in the world. Saskatchewan is one of the highest per capita emitters in Canada. And so, Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation in this province to do more than simply reduce our greenhouse gas footprint by 1 per cent over the next 12 years.

We have an obligation to do more, Mr. Speaker, and what we need to see from this government is more than vague plans, more than wishful thinking. We need to see a commitment. It's not just my children and grandchildren who will be affected by climate change, Mr. Speaker. All of us in this House — it will be all of our families, all of our communities, all of our businesses that will be affected by climate change. We're all in this together, Mr. Speaker, and it's important that we act, that we set an example for this very important issue. We know we can't do the whole thing but, Mr. Speaker, with our extremely high footprint in this area, we have an obligation to be leaders.

Mr. Speaker, our approach to greenhouse gases and climate change requires innovation. It requires leading technology. It's one of the reasons why we proposed the Renew Saskatchewan plan, a plan to finance Saskatchewan businesses, Saskatchewan co-operatives, consumers, in helping them make the right decision, helping them reduce their own greenhouse gases by

installing renewable energy.

Renew Saskatchewan would remove one of the burdens, one of the barriers to getting into the renewable energy game by making that finance easier to access. Renew Saskatchewan would make it easier for co-operatives, small towns, Indian reserves, for example, to get into the business of renewable energy by allowing them to spin the meter backwards and sell the electricity that they generate back to SaskPower.

This is a program that we've been seeing lots of excitement from farmers. We've been seeing lots of excitement from people in renewable energy. But that's not enough, Mr. Speaker. We also need training programs in renewable energy installation and maintenance. This is something that could really help rural Saskatchewan, could really help with jobs and rural revitalization.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I think I will wrap it up and conclude my remarks.

The Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the minister that Bill No. 132 be now read a second time. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Clerk: — Second reading of this bill.

The Speaker: — To which committee shall this bill be committed? I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Brkich: — I designate that Bill No. 132, *The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Amendment Act, 2018*, be referred to the Standing Committee on Economy.

The Speaker: — This bill stands committed to the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Bill No. 133

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 133 — *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018/Loi modificative de 2018 sur l'Assemblée législative (dates d'élection)*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise today to enter into debate on Bill No. 133, *The Legislative Assembly (Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2018*. So I do have a few comments to make on this particular piece of legislation, and then I think that folks are going to hear from me a little bit more this afternoon as well, as it relates to consequential amendments to this legislation.

This bill sets the date for the next election for Monday, October 26th, 2020 and establishes that future elections must be held at least every four years on the last Monday of October. And it is

worth noting that we are still in second reading of this bill. So for anyone who is watching from home and tuning in, I think that's an important piece we saw in the press releases that were provided by the government and also in some of the media releases that came out right when this bill was introduced, saying new election date has been set.

And I think it's worth noting that that's not the process of this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, and we would hope that everyone who's involved in communicating would indicate that this legislation has not yet passed. So this is not yet the date for the next election. We are still in the process of debating this. And with that in mind, I would like to hope that the minister is open to that debate and that we're still having a discussion about it in this Assembly. Otherwise it begs the question of what we're all doing here, Mr. Speaker.

So some pieces for this. I think that I'll spend a little bit of time talking about the fact that the media started reporting that election dates had changed, or had been set, as soon as the bill was introduced, and the fact that the press release that was provided by the government certainly lacked clarity in this process as well. So I think it's an opportunity for lessons learned here, Mr. Speaker, that our process is not simply that the government just announces that something is going to change and puts forward a bill and then it has magically changed.

So I have here a *Regina Leader-Post* article from Halloween, October 31st: "Saskatchewan adjusting 2020 provincial, municipal election dates." And the first line of the article states, "A provincial election will be held on Oct. 26, with municipal and school board elections taking place on Nov. 9th." There's some other content that's relevant here that I'll quote:

Asked why he would hold the election later, in October, rather than sooner, such as in June, Moe said from the provincial government's perspective the date chosen "fits the legislative calendar best."

I'm still quoting: "To that end, the provincial election will be held on Oct. 26, 2020, with municipal and school board elections taking place on Nov. 9, 2020."

So there is some note of the fact that there is a legislative process in place here, but the implication of the article is that it's already decided, when in fact it is not, Mr. Speaker. So I wanted to identify that for the folks who are following along from home.

[14:45]

So why is this significant? Well once again this government has decided to add to its four-year mandate by nearly seven months. This happened in 2016 as well where the government cited a conflict with the federal election. So they're quite happy to extend their own mandates. We see that as a result of both of these decisions, they're going to be gaining — if this legislation passes — they're going to be gaining over a year in government that was not part of their mandate. So I think it's worth questioning and it's worth debating: what is the basis for that decision and is it supportable.

We know that they're very happy to extend mandates. In fact they suggested that the municipal governments extend their own

mandates as well. They suggested that perhaps we could all alleviate this if the municipal government would just extend even further. And we saw some of the outcry that happened with municipal governments as a result of that suggestion where people rightfully said, I wasn't elected for a five-year mandate; why would you be suggesting this? And I think that that's a question that they should turn around and be asking themselves as well.

So this legislation proposes that . . . Initially the provincial and municipal dates were set to be five days apart. So it was set that October 28th was the municipal elections and November 2nd was the provincial election. This bill now proposes the following change: that the provincial election will be held on October 26th, 2020 and the municipal elections will be held on November 9th, 2020, which moves it to a whopping two weeks apart, Mr. Speaker, two whole weeks. There's still a whole bunch of problems that result from this change. So it's slightly longer than what was originally set, but anyone who has spent any time working on elections would be able to foresee some of the challenges that are going to occur as a result of this.

So what are a couple of the problems that have been identified? The first problem, which I've already identified, is that they are adding a year to their mandate. So over the past two elections they will have brought in, just kind of put under the umbrella, another year worth of governing, and that's not time that the people of Saskatchewan have voted for.

The second, which I think is going to hit home for most people, is that if you are not a political junkie and spend all of your time in this space, there is a lot of area for confusion with different voters when people are coming to their doorstep. And anyone who has spent time knocking door to door knows that the average voter gets confused when people are coming at them from all different areas.

So someone's there talking to them about a school board election. Suddenly someone's there for a municipal election. Suddenly someone's there for introducing a provincial candidate. It makes for quite the confusing situation, and people will start to think you're running against people you're not actually running against. So there is a cause for confusion here.

And I think that it is already challenging enough for voters to keep this information straight in their heads between their federal and their provincial representatives. When you add an overlap of the provincial representative and the municipal representative potentially going door to door at the same time, that is cause for a lot of confusion for voters. We're going to see signs up on the lawn for city council at the same time that we see signs for a provincial representative. There's going to be a lot of confusion that is created by this, and I think that it's worth noting that both the mayor of Saskatoon and the mayor of Regina have identified that this will be cause for confusion, so they also appreciate this at the municipal level. Both of those mayors have come out and said that this will make things confusing for voters.

Not to mention the fact that if you work on campaigns . . . You may be one of these civically minded people who just gives and gives and gives and works on campaign after campaign. And we know that a lot of folks who are involved at the municipal level of campaigns are also involved at the provincial level. So in terms

of who's going to work those elections, in terms of who is involved in a non-partisan way with Elections Saskatchewan but also the folks who are involved in a partisan way working for different political parties, this is going to be quite the strain on those individuals and we might see less civic engagement as a result of that.

So it all begs the question of, why not the spring of 2020? What's wrong with the spring of 2020? We're talking . . . In June the farmers will be done. In June 2020, that's when we should be having this provincial election, Mr. Speaker. I hear there's some . . . These folks would like to stay in government a little bit longer, so they don't like the idea of going to the polls four years after they were elected. But the reality is, Mr. Speaker, they've been elected for a four-year mandate, and this legislation does not acknowledge that.

So what's wrong with June 2020? It doesn't interfere with the legislative calendar. People still aren't on holidays. The bulk of the seeding will be done. And it's a great time to be going to the polls because it doesn't extend the mandate of this government.

And there's a few different people that agree with me, Mr. Speaker. There are some people that agree that it should be spring 2020. In the *Leader-Post* . . .

[Interjections]

The Speaker: — Continue the debate. I recognize the member.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Murray Mandryk agrees with me. In the *Leader-Post* . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Yes. Yes, he did. He said in the *Leader-Post* on October 19th, 2018, "Mandryk: Moe should move next Saskatchewan election to spring of 2020." He does agree with me. "There are no valid reasons [I'm quoting the article] — strategic or moral — for Moe to not call the next Saskatchewan general election for the spring of 2020, writes Murray Mandryk." So this is . . . I'm not the only one who believes this, Mr. Speaker.

There is also an article that I have here from the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* written by Phil Tank on August 20th, 2018. The title of it, it says, "Tank: Moe's motives a mystery on moving municipal elections." And I'm quoting. "At least Ontario Premier Doug Ford waited until he got elected before he started messing with municipal elections." The article goes on to say, "By the time the scheduled 2020 provincial election arrives, Moe will have served as an unelected premier for nearly three years." So I'm certainly not the only person that feels that we could be looking at the spring of 2020, Mr. Speaker, and there are some definite bonuses to that.

We are also calling for the MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] for Regina Walsh Acres and Saskatoon Eastview to resign their seats and to be able to have these seats filled by elected members who are focused on representing folks in this Assembly. While we're talking about elections, this seems like a relevant topic and it asks you what kind of message is being sent when folks are out campaigning for Conservative federal seats while taking a paycheque from taxpayers who expect that the folks will be working in this Assembly and they will pay the attention to this job that it deserves.

I can feel that things are starting to degenerate a little bit here, Mr. Speaker. With that, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 133.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 133. Pleasure of the Assembly?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 134

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 134 — *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into debate on Bill No. 134, *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*. This bill sets the dates for municipal and school board elections for November 9th, 2020, and the second Wednesday in November for each election thereafter. It also makes corrections to errors in the 2015 amendments to *The Local Government Election Amendment Act* and allows residents who live on land that is annexed by another municipality less than three months before an election to vote in their new municipality in local elections.

As I've previously stated, it is our position that the provincial election should be in June of 2020. I was just up speaking about Bill No. 133 and identified some causes for concern with the timing of these elections being too close to one another — only two weeks apart between the provincial and municipal elections. And we'll also identify that it has allowed for this government to extend its mandate over the course of these two elections where extra time has been added in both cases. They are extending their mandate by a full year of time here, Mr. Speaker.

There is also cause for concern with these elections being so close to one another. We know that a lot of the civically minded folks who are engaged in these elections participate both at the municipal level and at the provincial level and that putting them so close to one another will preclude some of this participation and might hinder some of our civic engagement. Two weeks is simply not long enough between this. And for the average voter on a doorstep trying to distinguish between who all these people are who are trying to curry their vote, it's a confusing time. Elections are already a confusing time when you see many representatives from many different parties coming by your house. This will create a lot of confusion.

There will be possibly competition within the media landscape for how much attention is being paid to these elections. We already have lower voter turnout than we would like, so we want to amplify the fact that elections are happening as much as possible when they're under way. And the fact that these elections are stacked up right against one another I think will be particularly to a disadvantage of the municipal candidates who are trying to get some attention while the provincial election is

going on. I'm worried that their messages will be overshadowed by conversations about what's happening across the province over that writ period.

In Bill No. 134, I talked a little bit about what it is proposing. Some of the amendments are housekeeping amendments. There's some changes that result from resolutions that have been passed.

One of the changes provided in the explanatory notes for this bill identifies that amendments are made that want to address the situation where there's no local newspaper. So other means for posting notices could be "... on social media, a municipal or other website, a municipal or local information bulletin, signs, posters, newsletters, or advertising circulars." So an opportunity to expand the message a little bit or how you're getting that information out, and that it's the council or school board's decision as to what means are best able to bring the notice to the attention of the municipality's voters.

And there are a number of other provisions that are changed here as well, but I sort of highlighted what some of the key areas were in that it's setting the dates for the municipal and school board elections. We know that those happen at the same time. And it corrects some of the errors to the 2015 amendments. And the main piece that we would like to identify with this particular bill is that these elections are being proposed to be set too close to one another.

[15:00]

So with that I would like to move that we adjourn debate on Bill No. 134, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 134. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 135

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 135 — *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 corrélative de la loi intitulée The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Fairview.

Ms. Mowat: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to enter into adjourned debate on Bill No. 135, *The Local Government Election Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. So this Act also sort of pairs with Bill No. 134 and Bill 133 which everyone in the Assembly has had the pleasure of listening to me debate for the past few minutes.

So there's a few different things that Bill 135 is proposing to do. And I always find it useful in preparing for these remarks, Mr.

Speaker, to have a look at the explanatory notes. We know that when a bill is being amended, explanatory notes are generally provided to explain what the amendments do, what the rationale is for those amendments, which is particularly useful to those of us who weren't born reading legislation or lawyers by trade.

So some of the explanatory notes for this Act which makes consequential amendments to *The Education Act, 1995* resulting from the enactment of *The Local Government Election Amendment Act, 2018* are . . . There is amendments — and this is also useful if folks are pulling this up on the website and looking at it for themselves to see what the content of this is — amendments to subsection 2 that repeal the reference to *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act* and replace it with a reference to *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*. So this is where these election provisions will be housed. So it's in many ways a housekeeping amendment.

And then the bulk of the other amendments for this bill are related to a resolution that was adopted at the SSBA's [Saskatchewan School Boards Association] 2017 annual convention. So that's the Saskatchewan School Boards Association and it has requested that school boards . . . Anyone who wants to be a school board candidate needs to submit a criminal record check as part of the nomination process. And it identifies that this is very similar to the process that exists in municipalities with regards to criminal record checks. And I will also identify that as part of our internal screening process, that's what we do to be MLAs as well. So making sure that there are criminal record checks provided and that that information becomes part of the publicly accessible nomination papers. It's not saying that the criminal record itself will be available, but providing that information to the voters so that they can make an educated decision in who they're voting for.

So these amendments certainly seem to be prudent and make sense in terms of what we would expect from our elected officials. Again the bigger piece for us with this collection of bills is just the fact that the proposed dates for the provincial and municipal elections are just too close to one another at two weeks, and we definitely see some barriers that will be created as a result to that change. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will move to adjourn debate on Bill 135.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 135. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 136

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Harrison that **Bill No. 136** — *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this debate on Bill No. 136. As the Clerk

said, the title is, the short title, *The Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Act, 2018*. But the long title, boy, is it ever a long title. I tell you, this is quite . . . I could recite the title and that's half of my speech. But I think I will for the folks at home just in case you're wondering, if they're googling this, what they want to google: *An Act respecting the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission and providing for the Regulation and Training of Apprentices, Tradespersons and Journeypersons and the Qualifications Necessary for Certificates, Permits, Endorsements and Identification Cards and making consequential amendments to other Acts*.

So that is very important, and I do appreciate that the gender designation is appropriate in the title. I haven't had a chance to take a full, long look at this, but I do think that it's important, particularly when we think of how we want to diversify our workforce particularly around the gender issues.

And I've had an opportunity to talk to some very interesting people. In fact we were at a meeting the other night and I ran into two young women. One was a crane operator and one was a pipefitter. And I thought that was pretty interesting work because those are complex and challenging occupations, one that . . . Both of them take a lot of training and a lot of knowledge and a lot of experience. And so I thought, this is great.

And one of the concerns that they raised, and this'll be one that I think we'll have to make sure we ask the minister, is particularly when you are designating the hours, or if you are getting some points or some special recognition for having a diverse workforce, particularly women in the workplace, that they're actually doing the work that they signed up for, that they're not actually being sent to work in the front office.

Now there is a time when you're working in the trades that your body starts to give out and you actually do appreciate a desk job. And that's both male and female and it's not a gender issue. It's just that when you reach a certain point you want to get into that kind of work. But if you're young and able, you want to be out there in the workplace doing the work that you've been trained to do. You don't want to be designated to work in the kitchen, as it were.

And this is a big issue. This is not a small one. So this is one that we'll be following up. That's one that we raised, and so we'll be talking to different stakeholder groups, and of course that's always the question we have: who was consulted? Who were the different groups that were part of this?

And I was reading through the minister's comments, and we'll take a quick look at this, but I was curious to know who was on the commission. And he referred to it as being industry led, which may mean a couple of things: that it was industry wide in terms of the fact that there were the trades, the tradespeople, through their organizations, were represented; or was it just the employer represented.

So let's just turn to section 5, when it talks about the membership of this organization. And it's on page 5, Mr. Speaker, and it says the commission of not more than 20 members appointed by the LG [Lieutenant Governor] in Council in accordance with sections (2) to (5). And so:

The commission must include the following members:

one employee of the ministry, to be recommended by the minister [So I assume that's either the deputy minister or executive director, someone like that.];

. . . [another] employee of the Ministry of Education, to be recommended by the minister responsible for the administration of *The Education Act, 1995*;

one representative from the Saskatchewan Polytechnic, to be recommended by the minister;

a minimum of one employee representative from each industry sector, to be selected by the organizations designated in the regulations for the purposes of this section;

a minimum of one employer representative from each industry sector, to be selected by the organizations . . . [and]

one or more persons to be recommended by the minister . . .

So you do have a situation where you have the employee represented from each industry sector.

Now it is interesting that we've seen a change a bit in terms of employee designation and what we call now floor-to-floor certification. And what that means that we have in some workplaces that are organized, that everybody on the floor, no matter what your occupation is, belongs to the same organization. Maybe it's a union; maybe it's a professional organization. But they belong to the same one. No matter if you are a carpenter, a caretaker, working at the front desk, you belong to the same union, the same bargaining group.

Whereas in the past you would have what we would call craft unions, unions that were based on whatever the craft that you were practising. So if your craft was a carpenter, then you would be part of that organization. If your craft was as a caretaker, you would be part of that group. And if you were part of the office staff, you would belong to that group. And so you would have three potential — or often many more — groups that you would have to deal with. So there's pluses and minuses of this.

And the minister did talk about the four recognized trades that you can't get around recognizing — that's electricians and the plumbers and the refrigeration and so on. And that's good, but it's interesting that we have to make sure that we do acknowledge some of these challenges.

So when we see these employees, we are going to be watching to make sure that they do come from some sort of craft or trade background, because that's what we're talking about. We're talking about apprenticeships and that, in fact, that the experts in the field — the masters or we would call them masters or the journeypersons — would be able to relate that in terms of new training opportunities and how to make the best work of it.

And we don't want to necessarily go to a situation where we're doing what we call wall-to-wall occupations or workplaces. And

that's sort of lost. And actually apprentices are gathering hours of apprenticeship, but they could be doing a whole host of jobs. One day they could be working for the carpenter. The next day they are working for the drywaller. The next day they're working for someone else and they're really not getting specifically trained in an area that they wanted to. And so we have to be watching. We have to be watching for that.

And so this is important and the minister did say, and now many of us have commented, that it's been 20 years since the bill was first brought forward and this is replacing that bill. And so fair enough, it is time to bring that forward. Of course you know, and it just strikes me, and I have not been . . . I think when a member from the other side was talking . . . I think it was the member from Kindersley was talking about his first job, and we were having the debate on minimum wage and he was espousing about his life experience from that one job. He learned a lot from that job, maybe. I don't know.

But I'll espouse on my first job and that was as a roofer. And maybe that's the closest I ever came to being a construction worker. I learned a lot about what I want to do and not want to do up on the roof. But how things have changed. And you know, now even just the basic tools that we think of, I'm just amazed at how, you know, a standard tool was the hammer and a belt and you had to go up. And now people use air guns. That's the thing they use. It's not really, you know . . . That's just the way the modern day is and that's all right. So the easier and the safer it is, the better it is.

I do want to talk a little bit about the comments the minister said about . . . And I think I get what he was talking about was that the . . . And he was talking about the second, well the first:

Now designation will rely on industry demand. An application demonstrating strong support will . . . be completed by members of industry in order to request an occupation or subtrade designation.

[15:15]

And, Mr. Speaker, it's been really interesting over the course of time to see different trades get recognized in the last 20 years. And some of them are . . . You know, we often think of apprentices as being those in the construction industry, but not necessarily so. In fact we're seeing it in the service industry and we're seeing people being designated as apprentices in different aspects of tourism, and how important that is I think particularly around the outfitters and how that trade has been recognized as a trade that is certifiable or that you can get . . . you're recognized as journeypersons.

And that was one that came out of demand because people were thinking, you know, we've got to get paid what our worth is. But how do people know, if I'm going with outfitter A versus outfitter B, that we're going to get good value for our money? And so the feeling was that what you would do is you would get certified. That was a trade, so first of all you have to have a trade.

Now the minister, and maybe rightfully so, talked about the idea that you could challenge the test or the exam to get the designation at whatever level it was. And that may be fair enough, but we do want to watch this. Because I know and I'm

familiar with some of these designations and how there was a lot of work put into when you designate particularly kind of unique trades. Like I'm saying outfitting or some in the service industry, where do you go to get that expertise? Where do you go where they have developed standards?

And so this really, in this case of outfitters, came from the outfitters coming together and really thinking about, so what does it mean to be a good outfitter? What does it mean to be someone who's apprenticing in that field? Because these are standards that the public expects, and they expect them to be rigorous and not platitudes, but testable. And I think this is what the minister was talking about somebody challenging the test; I have that experience and I can do it. He talked about a concrete finisher and how important that is.

But the question is, are there standards within that because, as people expect different abilities or skills, and following that, whether the product can have a bit of a warranty, you know? You know, outfitters are kind of a different category because you're talking about an experience. We're talking about outfitters and being certified as journeyman outfitters, journeyperson outfitters, and apprenticeship in the outfitting trade as opposed to in the construction trade.

But if you have a concrete finisher, then there's a certain standard that you expect. And you pay, either as a business or as a private resident, that you would have a certain standard that was met and would have some sort of warranty with it. Because if you don't have that warranty that's met, then that's a problem.

And I'm sure many of us have watched Home & Garden TV when they flip the houses, and you see bad workmanship and what the implications are of that. And so, Mr. Speaker, I think it's really an onus that when we take a look at this, and there will be questions about this, about how do we ensure that we're not taking the easy path. Now maybe we're taking a path that's not well travelled, but we don't want to take the easy path because people's livelihoods depend on it, because they want to have a certain pride in work.

And as I said, talking about the women in trades, they want to play their role. They're challenging the stereotypes out there. They're saying, I can be a crane operator. I can be a pipefitter. I can be a plumber. I can be a carpenter. And these are important, important challenges, but they want to make sure they're valued, they're respected, and they're not being set up for failure or for tokenism and working in the front office. That is absolutely something that we don't want to see, that people be set up for failure.

This is a thing we see, whether it's in a university program and when we talk about polytechnic and we talk about *The Education Act*, that people have a strong foundation, that they will contribute to society, and that, as I said, it's not just a commercial venture. And we see this with some training institutes that, say, offer programs that, you know, there's really no hope of getting work. And when you do get work, will you be able to practise your trade in a way that people say that you're worth the money that they're paying? And we've seen that, whether you go to a private college . . . And you know, my own son went to a private college and went and got sound-recording training. And it actually worked really well for him and he was able to get work

in the field. Not many people can.

But how do we ensure that that is a positive experience for our youth? We have only so much money that we can invest when we're doing this kind of thing, that for sure the money is being used in post-secondary in a positive, effective, and efficient way, not to falsely lead especially our young people particularly, as I've said, in terms of gender diversity, that in fact that everyone can have a successful career and work here in Saskatchewan. That's so hugely, hugely important. So, Mr. Speaker, there is lots of things to be said about this And we will keep our eyes on it, and we'll also make sure we're talking to the people, you know.

And I've talked about the building trades. They've done a wonderful job of making sure . . . A big part of what they think about, a big part of what they think about is the next generation. And if you read the building trades magazines, you'll see them highlighting apprentices that are coming up, and the challenges and the successes they have. Some of the challenges they have — and this is one that this government, we need to make sure we talk about — is how many apprentices can you have assigned to each journeyperson on the site. We've had questionable numbers where too many apprentices were assigned to one journeyperson who really couldn't do their job that they're supposed to be doing. They're actually working, building whatever they're building, but yet also supervising and making full use of apprentices. And the apprentice is getting a positive, positive experience.

And as I said, we don't want people in the workplace to be in an apprentice program that actually is meaningless because they're doing all sorts of things on the construction site and not actually learning their skill. That would actually be counterproductive. But some people think, in the short run if you can pay people less, then you're actually achieving more. But we know, in terms of occupational safety and the completion of a project, that actually it's better to get it done right and get it done safely than to cut corners. And quite often this is where we get situations where corners are cut. And that's not right.

So, Mr. Speaker, it would be helpful if we did have — and this doesn't really speak to this — some sort of official registration of the certified trades, the subtrades, and occupations that are available right now to the public. And you know, particularly young people that are looking to work, what are their options?

Some may have gone out of fashion. I think about, you know, different seamstresses or button manufacturing or anything like that, that used to be a big deal. It used to be, you know, we did so much of that work here in North America, particularly in the textile industry, that these were all craft type of positions.

Another craft position that's kind of gone, that's being really challenged in a lot of ways of course, typesetters. Typesetters used to be such a proud occupation, particularly in apprenticeship. I think of one very famous apprentice typesetter, and that's Tommy Douglas was an apprentice typesetter in Scotland, I think some, and then also in Winnipeg. And so those kind of things, those kind of positions become lost in the modern era where we don't have that kind of work available as once we did. And so we're always looking at how we improve this. But I have to say the model for apprenticeship is one that is not decades old, but in fact hundreds of years old.

And of course the title “journey person” comes from those experts who would journey from town to town plying their trades or practising at the time what they would call their craft. And this is not a modern industrial age-type of term. It’s one that’s pre-industrial age. And you could have people travelling around from community to community practising their craft with their apprentice by their side to make sure that work gets done and gets done well.

And so, Mr. Speaker, it would be interesting to know what are currently the trades, subtrades that we have in Saskatchewan that are registered or can be certified. What are those? We know the four that you have to have in construction — the electrician, the plumber, and so on — but we don’t know the others. And I think that would be very, very important.

So I think this is important, and it’s also important to think about and be thinking ahead in terms of, you know as I said, the typesetter is something of the past. So what is in the future? What are the kind of things that we should be talking about in the future? And that might be something polytechnic could be leading the discussion in. What do we want to do there so that we have some sort of certifiable, safe, and some way of making sure the work is done well?

And when we’re talking about some of the new things that are coming along with social media, I don’t know if you’ve been hearing about how much, when you go mining for Bitcoins, how much energy is used up in that type of thing. And you’re actually producing nothing, but these computers are working through all these mathematical formulas that take energy to do. So is there any control over that kind of thing?

You know, we’re in a brand new world, and we have to be thinking about where do we start to certify some of these things and expect that they be certified. Or do we continue to have the wild west until something really horrible happens, and then in fact we have to go back to the table? So there’s a lot of changes. And I think this is an exciting opportunity because we want people working here as part of how we drive the economy forward, but we also want to be creative and look forward.

But we also want to make sure that we think and reflect on the past about things that have served us well. And the journey person apprenticeship model has served us well for centuries, for centuries. And so it’s something that we should honour and we make sure it’s treated with the due respect, especially the trades that we have. And as I said, we came through an era where it was seen that the only suitable post-secondary training was through the university, but we’re looking at all venues now and that’s very, very important.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I don’t think I’ll read the title again because it might double my speech. I’ll just use the short title and just say I’m going to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136. Thank you.

The Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 136. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 137

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Ms. Eyre that **Bill No. 137 — *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s my honour to rise in the House today to enter into the debate on Bill No. 137, *An Act to amend The SaskEnergy Act*. This amendment Act, this bill, is quite short, Mr. Speaker, but it does have some important considerations that I think need to be discussed in this Chamber. So I’ll endeavour to try to do so in the time that I have this afternoon.

The first change that this bill makes is adding subsection (1.1) after section 24(1) in *The SaskEnergy Act*. And it states, Mr. Speaker, “An approval by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to subsection (1) may be made with respect to a particular case or may be general in nature.”

[15:30]

And we learned from looking at the explanatory notes as well as looking at the corresponding section in *The SaskEnergy Act* that:

It will allow the corporation to request an Order in Council to generally approve a program or initiative without the need for additional specific Orders in Council for . . . [every] individually approved participant in such program.

Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting change, and I know I’ve had colleagues prior to me enter into this debate with concerns about what this could mean for future business dealings between SaskEnergy and private corporations and our level of ability to scrutinize those sorts of contracts, Mr. Speaker. There’s always some concern when things, for example, are moved from Acts into regulations. And when things are moved away from orders in council, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that doesn’t allow us that opportunity to provide that scrutiny that is frankly our job to do so, Mr. Speaker.

The other change that this bill makes that I think is very important and would be quite interesting to the public is the change to subsection (42)(1) which strikes out 1.7 billion and substitutes it for 2.5 billion, Mr. Speaker. And what that simple change in numbers does to that Act, Mr. Speaker, it actually raises the debt limit capacity for SaskEnergy from \$1.7 billion to \$2.5 billion. So that’s allowing for SaskEnergy to get into even further debt from the \$1.7 billion cap that they had before, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is at a time when SaskEnergy is, to our knowledge, quite profitable. I believe they’ve recently applied to have the rates actually reduced, the public consumption rates, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So it raises a bit of an alarm when we see this government, a government that has done a very poor job of maintaining their debt to a manageable level, when we have a government who has done, in the past, essentially moved debt from profitable Crowns into the GRF [General Revenue Fund] so that the GRF can be

made more fruitful, and our Crowns suffer as a result, Mr. Speaker.

There's a lot of concern for why this is happening, and we haven't heard a lot of explanation from members opposite, Mr. Speaker. It's very concerning, and it's very confusing why the SaskEnergy would be increasing its borrowing limit through legislation at this time of the fiscal year. It's definitely going to be a question that I know the critic is going to be asking at committee, as she should be, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's quite interesting to see, and if you look at SaskEnergy's annual report, I think it provides a little bit more detail in terms of why this is concerning. The Chair, in her message in her report talks about how "SaskEnergy delivered strong financial results in 2017-18, including \$110 million in income before unrealized market value adjustments, [which is] a 12.2 per cent consolidated return on equity, and a strong debt-to-equity ratio," Mr. Deputy Speaker. That's great to see.

So there's some confusion as to why the Sask Party would be applying to increase that debt load when SaskEnergy is doing . . . or that debt limit when SaskEnergy is doing so well financially, Mr. Speaker.

Another thing that's important to highlight is what's in the financial operating highlights in the consolidated financial information in the annual report, Mr. Deputy Speaker, as the total net debt that's here at this point in time in 2018 is \$1.2 billion, which has actually grown over time. In 2013, it was 1.064; 2014, it was 1.159; 2015, it was 1.156; 2016, it was 1.210; and then in 2017, it's 1.232. We've seen it steadily increase, Mr. Deputy Speaker, over time and ultimately with this change in the legislation, assuming that the Sask Party's anticipating it's going to increase even more.

When we have a government that can't be trusted to manage our finances, that continually has increased our debt load, not only is it concerning for the opposition, it's concerning for the population at large, Mr. Speaker. So when we see these sorts of legislative changes that are going to increase the debt limit for our Crowns, we're concerned for the future of our Crowns and we're concerned for the pocketbooks of our citizens, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

With that, I know I have other colleagues who will wish to enter into this debate at a future time, so I will take this opportunity to adjourn debate on Bill 137.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 137, *The SaskEnergy (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 138

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Kaeding that **Bill No. 138** — *The Miscellaneous Statutes (Government Relations* —

Enforcement Measures) Amendment Act, 2018 be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Northeast.

Mr. Pedersen: — Mr. Deputy Speaker, it's my honour today to rise and make some comments on this bill that's before the House. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends a number of important pieces of legislation: *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*; *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999*; *The Electrical Licensing Act*; *The Fire Safety Act*; and *The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act*, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It also amends *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act*, *The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act*. And those are the Acts amended.

Now I'm sure as you can see, Mr. Deputy Speaker, all those pieces of legislation have a fairly similar flavour. They're all to do with public safety, and for that reason I say they're very important. It doesn't matter whether it's my kids or the member from Weyburn's kids, if they're riding on an amusement ride we want to know that they're safe. And when you're visiting a building heated by a boiler, we want to know that that building is safe. And so these are very important pieces of legislation. That being said, I'm sure you can understand that these are fairly . . . We're not expecting a great deal of controversy on this particular piece of legislation.

One thing I will comment on, Mr. Deputy Speaker, is that in my past life as a lawyer representing people who have the opportunity to be facing some sort of discipline or penalty, due process is very important. And the ability on their part to be able to defend themselves, respond to complaints, and in some cases file an appeal of the sanctions that might be levied against them is very important. Indeed it's a fundamental part of basically our democratic society and the way our economy works. And all of us have the capability to have our judgment clouded, and so due process is an important way of providing checks and balances in that.

So in turning to section 2(5) of the bill, Mr. Speaker, by way of example, section 2(5) introduces a new section of *The Amusement Ride Safety Act* called "Discipline order." And there is similar provisions throughout the bill dealing with each of the pieces of legislation that are amended. And what that discipline order provides is, it gives a government inspector the right to basically discipline somebody who's operating, you know, whether it's an amusement ride, or they're the operator in charge of say a boiler or an elevator, and it gives them the ability to impose certain orders.

So for instance with amusement rides, you know, the inspector can direct that certain training or education be completed. The inspector can direct that certain practices be stopped or modified, that certain advertising or displays be stopped or modified, that the person operating it might have to report their advertising or displays going forward, that people doing regulated work might have to basically act under supervision of the chief inspector or by somebody else that the inspector designates.

And this is probably the most serious one, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and this is in the new 24.1(4)(f) of what would be the new amusement ride safety Act. It says that the inspector can also

direct a person to stop acting where that is necessary to avoid or reduce risk of personal injury or damage to property. Obvious we don't want anybody hurt. We don't want property damage. But this gives the chief inspector quite a wide latitude to actually shut down an operator. And when that happens, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm always concerned that due process be there and that people who are subject to potentially having their livelihood shut down be afforded due process.

And so from that point of view, when we move on to the part dealing in section 32.1, which would be a new section in the Act, it basically says that the inspector can propose a penalty, invite some submissions from the person affected, and then decide whether they still want to keep going with that penalty.

My concern, Mr. Speaker, is when we go back to the discipline order, there doesn't seem to be that same right of appeal. Now I confess having fairly short notice to look over the bill, so it may be that I've missed it. But I don't see that there's that same ability on the part of somebody affected to appeal a discipline order. And that's problematic when an inspector or somebody in charge of licensing has the authority to shut down somebody's livelihood.

Rights of appeal are important. It's basically a fresh set of eyes, perhaps somebody who's more objective, because all of us have the capability to let our egos get in the way of doing our job the best way as possible.

Another important legal principle is that when somebody's acting to impose discipline or penalties . . . And this applies in the criminal sphere. We have this overriding obligation in the criminal sphere that police act on reasonable and probable grounds. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I don't see that in this legislation, that the inspector's powers are required to be exercised on reasonable, probable grounds. And I think that would be an important element for any inspector acting, that they have to be proceeding reasonably.

We see the same provisions when it comes to *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act*, when it comes to *The Electrical Licensing Act*, and when it comes to *The Fire Safety Act*.

[15:45]

Now one of the other things I wonder, and I'm wondering if this is perhaps just a drafting error, is in the new section 24.1 of *The Amusement Ride Safety Act*. In subsection (4) it opens with the word "The penalty." And we see that same language when we flip over to . . . And this is in section 3(5) of the bill, and in section 23.1, which would be a new section of *The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999*, in subsection (4) of that new section, again it uses the words, "the penalty." We see that same language referring to a penalty when we flip over to the provisions dealing with *The Electrical Licensing Act*, and that is in the new section 26.4 of *The Electrical Licensing Act* which is in section 4(2) of the bill. And when it comes to section 5(2) of the bill, which is creating a new section 41.4 of *The Fire Safety Act* — and it's subsection (3) of new section 41.4 — we again see that reference to "the penalty."

And I wonder, Mr. Deputy Speaker, if that isn't a drafting error because it seems to be referring actually to a discipline order.

And when those pieces of legislation talk about penalty, they seem to be referring to the financial penalties which are in different sections. And so I suspect that that's actually a drafting error and it should, instead of saying, "the penalty," it should say, "the discipline order," is what it should be referring to. And so I think that's probably just a little drafting error that could be cleaned up relatively easily.

So I think with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to wrap up my comments on this important legislation and move that it be adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Northeast has moved to adjourn debate on Bill 138. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 139

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 139 — *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise today to enter into debate of Bill No. 139, *The Foreign Worker Recruitment and Immigration Services Amendment Act*. I know members opposite would really like to enter into this debate as well. They seemed really excited to see myself get up, but even more eager are they to enter into this debate. But fortunately, frankly, for myself and members on my side, we won't have to hear them speak about this bill today. I'll be doing the speaking about this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is amended. We'll be updating the references to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* and other Acts that will be used in the regulation, which is, you know, a housekeeping change, Mr. Deputy Speaker, based after the creation of *The Saskatchewan Employment Act*. It's important that we update the legislation that references outdated legislation and instead ensure that it's pointing to the correct legislation.

This bill will also allow the sharing of information between government institutions for inspections, investigations, as well as enforcement of the Act, and does some changing to the procedure on hearings and appeals. That's essentially the overview of the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I do want to go into it in a little bit more detail.

Some of the changes that this bill will do: it'll create a definition of a registrar of appeals, which is being added to clarify this role in the new appeal process. It's also amending clause (2)(e) of section 16, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to update, like I said in my summary, to update the reference to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* and allow for the inclusion of other Acts in the associated regulations.

The government is saying that this will allow a more comprehensive investigation to ensure there is not a pattern of unlawful activity, Mr. Speaker. This is probably a positive move forward in this area, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Temporary foreign workers are . . . There are many of them in this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and there's concerns for the well-being of this group.

This group has been historically mistreated and we do need to ensure that they are protected, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Often they come to Canada; they don't know anybody here. English can sometimes be their second language. They may only have contact with their employer, and that can lead to . . . That amount of dependency, Mr. Speaker, can sometimes lead to situations of abuse, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

So we should be doing what we can to ensure that this vulnerable sector of workers, while they are in Canada, that they are protected, that they are afforded all of the rights that anybody who is in Canada is entitled to and afforded. So my hope and our hope is that these changes will help beef up this area and allow for more protection of these workers, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

One thing that we don't see in the legislation that should be considered by the government is more investigators. There aren't enough investigators, Mr. Deputy Speaker, to manage the level of complaints and concerns that are raised by the employees and the community at large with respect to mistreatment, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And if there isn't proper resourcing at the ministry level to be able to investigate all of these concerns, then vulnerable people are left, Mr. Deputy Speaker, unprotected, and legislative changes won't be able to assist with that challenge. Changing legislation to make it stronger is an important step, but it's frankly a step without teeth if we're not also backing that up by accompanying it with resources to ensure that there are enough investigators in place, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Another change is an amendment to subsection 20(1)(f), which ". . . is amended to update the reference to *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* and allow the inclusion of other Acts in the regulations." Again they're hoping that this will ensure "a more comprehensive investigation."

Section 34 of the Act is being repealed because it's no longer, as the government has said, ". . . no longer necessary as the Act is no longer co-administered by the former Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety."

Section 35 is being ". . . amended to remove references to the 'Director of Labour Standards' and '*The Labour Standards Act*'." Again this is a change that is precipitated by *The Saskatchewan Employment Act* and the removal of other legislation as a result of that all rolling into one large piece of legislation. Also this provision, section 35, ". . . has been broadened to allow for exchange of information with other government institutions." This is something that we've seen in other legislative changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker. This is something that other pieces of legislation and other ministries have made it easier so that there isn't a siloing of work and a siloing of information. Of course all of that has to be done in recognition of privacy legislation and the privacy rules of this province, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Furthermore, section 39.1 is being added too, which will ". . . enable the director to seek information from third parties to determine if there is a contravention of the Act," Mr. Speaker. That makes sense. It allows the director to have a bit more power and authority and gives them the ability to be able to investigate further if there are concerns, to be able to compel third parties or allow the director to get more information from third parties.

There's also a housekeeping amendment in section 47 which updates references to "director" and "legislation." There is a new subsection (6) added to section 48, which will continue to allow the director to reconsider a matter and alter a decision if new information becomes available. So it gives the ability to the director, even after a decision has been made, if there is new information that comes to light then the matter may be reopened and reconsidered, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also a new section 49 which establishes a list of independent adjudicators to hear appeals. It sets out the terms and remuneration of adjudicators. I believe my understanding . . . I could be wrong, but I think this removes the adjudication process away from the director and provides a more independent set of adjudication, which is more in line with the tribunals, the other tribunals we see throughout the province.

The new section 49.1 will establish the process for making an appeal and assign an adjudicator and the setting of the hearing dates. Section 49.2 and 49.3 will set out procedures for appeals and the powers of the adjudicator. 49.4 and 49.5 have been added to establish the requirement that an adjudicator issue an order and provide written reasons within 60 days of the conclusion of the hearing. Registrar of appeals is responsible for ensuring that decisions are provided to the parties. Again this is to formalize and make it similar to other tribunals that we do see throughout the province.

Some housekeeping amendments are being made to sections 51 and 52, which will remove the reference to "director" and update reference to new sections of the Act. There's a new section 52.1, which establishes that the director has standing at an appeal, has the right to appeal an adjudicator's decision to the court. There's a new section 52.2, which authorizes the enforcement of an order or decision of the court, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also some . . . which is something that we often see in legislative changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for better or for worse, an expansion of the regulation allowances so government will be able to make more regulations. In particular the expansion in this bill is with respect to procedures for appeals, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is, you know, always an interesting thing.

There's some good sides and some bad sides to legislation being moved from the Acts themselves over to the regulations. And this one in particular is a new section, so it's not moving something that was in the Act into the regulations. It's creating a new process and then moving the ability to amend that process, the procedure of that process, into the regulations, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There's some efficiency piece. There's an efficiency piece there but there's also the loss of scrutiny that happens when we move items into regulations because we don't have the opportunity to review the legislation through the Chamber like we are doing with this bill, and we don't have the opportunity to scrutinize it and bring it to the attention of the public like we

would. Regulations simply get passed without that level of scrutiny.

Like I had said at the beginning of my remarks, Mr. Deputy Speaker, there needs to be more focus on the violations of the Act made by foreign-worker recruiters and employers. The focus on appealing decisions is probably an important step or a step that's being made in improving the process. But really the focus should be on ensuring that there are enough resources so that actual violations of the Act are able to be properly inspected, properly investigated, Mr. Deputy Speaker, properly followed up on, because it is something that we have heard concerns about.

Another concern we've heard about is the lack of transparency in the process of recruiting foreign workers, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've heard a lot of concerns about that process and about its misuse over the past few years, Mr. Deputy Speaker. We've also heard concerns about the regulations for foreign workers employed in the seasonal agricultural worker program in our province. It's an important issue. It's a very vulnerable sector of workers. And what we haven't heard from this government is any discussion on how that sector is going to be enforced . . . or any investigations are going to be followed up on and how that sector is going to be enforced and how they're going to be able to monitor concerns that they have heard. I know we've heard some concerns and again we've also heard concerns about investigations not being followed up on due to a lack of resources.

[16:00]

Another thing that we're concerned about is it doesn't feel like there's a lot being done right now, or there isn't enough being done right now to help improve the knowledge of foreign workers of their rights and raise awareness about the protection measures offered by this Act to workers throughout the province, I think.

Again the staff that do this work, that work within the ministry, do very good work and are working very hard, but they can only do so much work in a day. And we could always be doing much more in terms of ensuring that workers are aware of their rights and are aware of what they should be doing should they be concerned that some of their rights have been violated, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And this is a huge, huge problem, especially when we're talking about a vulnerable sector of people. It's important for government to do what they can to ensure that that sector is being protected and that sector is made aware of their rights and is given the resources necessary to be able have a right of recourse should their rights be violated.

We can imagine how scary that is for a foreign worker, like I said, who comes here, doesn't know anybody, knows very few people. Their ability to stay in Canada is completely dependent on their employer. It's difficult to be able to, first of all, know what sort of rights you have in Canada, and second of all, be able to make a complaint against an employer who may be mistreating that worker. But that employer-employee relationship is crucial to that individual being able to stay in Saskatchewan.

So you can imagine why someone would be very reluctant to

raise a concern about mistreatment by an employer, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which was why it's so important for government to ensure that there are stringent regulations and stringent rules, and that there is the proper amount of resources in place to ensure that investigations can be properly followed up on, that there is an avenue and an ability for workers to be able to stay in Canada should they have a dissolution of their relationship with their employer because of a violation of the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

These are important roles that the government should be stepping in to do and while the ministry works hard and does the work that they need to be doing, they could use more resources. They could use more staff, Mr. Deputy Speaker. There is a concern that they're not able to follow up on all of the complaints that they do receive, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I do know I have colleagues who'll be interested in joining into this debate at a later time. So with that I am prepared to move the adjournment of debate of Bill No. 139.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 139. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 140

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Marit that **Bill No. 140** — *The Animal Health Act* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to enter into this debate on Bill No. 140, *An Act respecting Animal Health and the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Diseases among Animals*. And it's a very important piece of legislation that we have before us and it's one that, as the minister remarked, that it was 1966 since we've last seen it. And I think I'll go . . . [inaudible].

And so it's one that we need to take a look at carefully because we know that there is a strong connection between animal health and public health, and we've become more aware of this and more aware of this over the years. And whether it's BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy], or known as mad cow disease, and the impact that it had, and of course the implications around COOL [country of origin labelling] legislation, country of origin legislation labelling — that's a huge one.

And of course rabies is one that we always worry about. And, you know, many of us who have pets make sure we get our animals their shots so that they are current and safe and not going to be bringing anything home that is unwanted. And so there are lots of examples of that. And I think this is an important piece and it'll be one that when we get into committee and we get more of a technical background of this, this'll be very, very interesting.

And of course I read with interest, and I think this was important, when the government and the Minister of Agriculture talked about who they have consulted with on this new legislation. And I quote, talked to producers through their producer associations as well as the SARM [Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities] and APAS [Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan] and ministries of Environment and Health and the federal government and the relevant colleges at the U of S, veterinarians and veterinarian services.

I think that's important. I'm not sure if there was a chance for the public to get involved because, you know, obviously the economic drivers of the large producers, of large animals is significant and obviously that's a big deal, but whether small animals is becoming much more important in terms of just the economic issues. And people say maybe we fawn too much over our pets, our cats and our dogs. But once you do have one you seem to think it's an integral part of the family. And so this is important. They're family; very, very important.

And the other one that I found, and only by accident that I discovered, you know, and I have been to VIDO several times, the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization at the U of S. And I'm not sure whether they were consulted in this discussion or not. But it'd be worthwhile to hear what they have to . . . their insights into this, because they are pretty aware.

And I'm not sure of the executive director's name, but I think he's maybe retiring soon. It'd be worthwhile to have a conversation with him in terms of his world view around infectious diseases in animals and the role of vaccines, and how can we be a smarter place. We're very fortunate in Saskatchewan to have VIDO. VIDO I think is one of the four producers of vaccines in Canada — I could be wrong, but one of the top ones — because of their designation.

And of course vaccines are very, very important, you know, and when you just think about the diseases, and you can just go through the list of the flus, the avian flu, all the connections with animals, and the impacts at some point will come home to roost with humans. And of course it was very interesting, the presentation that we had. And I think if I remember correctly, the member from University was there as well. The presentation was very clear that this is a very important issue in the world, but in North America.

We have no longer in Canada, I understand, any commercial production of vaccines. It comes from the United States. There's seven companies in the states that produce vaccines, and we kind of have to rely on the hope that the United States doesn't close its borders or say they will be served first.

Ironically, the seven producers of vaccines in the United States are owned by European companies, so they may just say we're going to pull the investment out of the United States and take it back to Europe. This is because the production of vaccines is becoming very different than it was 20, 30, 40 years ago when you needed large machines, and now they can reproduce en masse and it's a much more efficient way.

And so we were, when we were in government, a supporter of VIDO, and I believe these folks on government side are as well, and I would urge them to visit VIDO. I would urge the Minister

of Agriculture maybe to see what those folks, if they have any input. I'm not sure whether it would be helpful, but it would be another group that would have insight because . . . You know, when I talked about world view, what was interesting about those folks, they are very much in tune with what's happening around the world. They are very much aware of what's happening in Africa, in Asia, in North America, in South America, in terms of emergence of diseases often from animals.

And so it was an eye-opener to me and a reminder that we have the good fortune in Saskatchewan to have such an institution at our university and that we should take full advantage of their experience and their knowledge. But we should also take advantage of the fact that their views of emerging trends are what we might be doing. I mean, when we produce legislation, we don't think of this as the end point. We also think that we solved the problem. We're fixing everything from the last 50 years. We're actually hoping to anticipate issues for the next 25, 40 years so that it's not coming up. And they might be very helpful in this.

It's a very important piece of legislation, and I think that we want to ensure that it's done well and without unintended consequences and particularly when we come to animals. You know, and as we've talked about whether they're small animals, whether they're the family pet, or whether they're large animals and are part of the rural farm market, that it's very, very important. And we're seeing more discussions around that in terms of the health and well-being of animals in terms of organic production and what is considered organic production, what's not considered organic, particularly in terms of the feed and whether the feed is carrying, what some would say, drugs that would produce a positive health outcome in terms of vaccinations. Or others might view that as not because those drugs get passed on up the food chain to people.

And so it does contain a clause, Mr. Speaker, about licensing of persons and establishments that sell veterinary drugs, which is important and because that's obviously a significant cost. And we want to make sure that (a) that their drugs are being used in the right way, that they are being used for animal consumption only, that people aren't buying drugs that may be used for other purposes and therefore an illegal entry point into the black market, that in fact that there's some tracing of that, particularly if there are outbreaks or shortages and somehow the medicine is not there. So I think this is a very, very important part in terms of licensing of persons that sell veterinary drugs.

So I think this is one that I think that . . . You know, it's interesting when we think of the role of agriculture in Saskatchewan, really in so many ways is so foundational to how we are in this province. And people don't really think about that too much, particularly when it comes to animals. And I know a few years ago when we passed *The Animal Protection Act* and cruelty to animals that, you know, when we think of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals comes under the Ministry of Agriculture, prevention of cruelty to animals generally, so this is all very, very important.

And as I said, you know, when you start to think about the diseases that are impacting us in Saskatchewan, we all think about rabies and we hope that our dogs and our cats don't bring that home from some encounter with some bat or skunk or

something else . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . All right. Now we won't get into . . . But, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we all think about that. We all think about the well-being. And of course, you know, I remember when I was first elected, and I think it was 2003, that the outbreak of BSE in Alberta and what a big deal that was.

And of course we all have some . . . And we think about animals and you know what happens, algae blooms and water can become poisoned. All of this is so important for our economy.

[16:15]

So I think it would be worthwhile if the minister can make a contact, or maybe he has, with VIDO. Say, we've got this before us; have you any thoughts on it? It would be interesting to hear their thoughts. I think that I'm just so impressed by that organization.

But I know that this will be one that we want to take to committee and have lots of questions. But I think we'll have members have some discussion on that. So I'm going to move adjournment of Bill No. 140, *An Act respecting Animal Health and the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Diseases among Animals, 2018*. I do so move.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Saskatoon Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 140. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 142

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 142** — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018/Loi de 2018 sur les poursuites contre la Couronne* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thanks very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Pleasure to join debate this afternoon on such an auspicious legislative occasion as Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*, or as you'd say in Hungarian . . . No, I'm just kidding, Mr. Speaker. Of course I don't speak Hungarian, unlike some lucky souls in this Assembly.

But certainly, Mr. Speaker, again this happens in the legislative agenda from time to time with the government. And I don't know if this is by accident necessarily or if it's just a function of justice and the fact that the Ministry of Justice of course is where you have the great folks that do the drafting of legislation and certainly they are up to speed when it comes to what's coming out of the Law Reform Commission, what the best practices are across the country, and certainly what needs to be translated into French and brought up to date in that regard, Mr. Speaker, and certainly that would seem to be the case with this piece of legislation.

But in the second reading speech from the minister, the Minister

of Justice states that:

This [particular] Act will replace *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act* with a new modern bilingual Act that reflects the most recent drafting standards. Mr. Speaker, the new Act will remove the option for jury trials and proceedings against the Crown. [It goes on to state that] this option is very rarely exercised with only one such jury trial having been held in over 20 years. [It goes on to state that] the change will also make Saskatchewan's Act consistent with the majority of Crown liability statutes across Canada. New Brunswick is the only other common-law province that currently allows jury trials in these proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I'm no lawyer, but I'm certainly a legislator. And I don't just play one on TV, you know, it's a job that's been entrusted to me by the people of Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

And looking at this piece of legislation, I can't help but wonder how this impacts other proceedings that the people of Saskatchewan might be wishing to engage in when it comes to launching proceedings against the Crown, and indeed against the provincial government of the day.

And just in this very afternoon alone, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we've seen various grounds on which those kind of proceedings come to the fore, and in terms of changes that have been made to the procedure whereby that is engaged, are very important. So I am going to pay very close attention to what my colleagues who are lawyers have to say on this front, and certainly will be looking to see how this impacts, whether it makes justice more or less readily available for people who come into conflict with the Crown, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Because again, it's sort of interesting watching this government these days. It's sort of like the bull in the china shop, lumbering around, bumping into things, breaking things. And then of course people will take them to court for these things. And again, Mr. Speaker, what impact this particular piece of legislation has on the ability of people to get justice from their government when it's not being done upfront, you know, in either official language, remains to be seen. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would look forward to that broader discussion. I'll be watching with great interest.

And with that I would move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 142, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 143

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 143** — *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Again, good to join debate this afternoon on Bill No. 143, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*. Now, Mr. Speaker, when you've got legislation that has impact on various other statutes and, in this case, Bill No. 142 having impact as stated by the Minister of Justice in his second reading speech, impact flowing forward into a total of 27 Acts then, you know, those consequential amendments flow forth from the initial legislation.

So, Mr. Speaker, what is of consequence remains to be fully explored. And I'm sure that, again, other of my colleagues more learned than I will be able to provide better insights for this particular conversation, Mr. Speaker. But we'll await those interventions and follow them with great interest.

So with that, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'd move to adjourn debate on Bill No. 143, *The Proceedings Against the Crown Consequential Amendments Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 143. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 144

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Morgan that **Bill No. 144 — *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*** be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Lakeview.

Ms. Beck: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to rise this afternoon and enter into debate on Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced to this House on second reading by the minister on November the 13th, 2018. I think that he had some interesting things to say when he stood up in the House to move second reading of *The Real Estate Amendment Act*. The minister at that time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, rightly noted that "... the purchase of real estate, particularly the family home, comprises one of the most significant investments that the average Saskatchewan family will make in a lifetime." And certainly that is the case for most families that I know, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and most of the people in the province.

The investment in a family home represents a huge outlay of resources for the average family, hopefully becomes one of their biggest assets as they move through their lifespan, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But given the large outlay of resources that families do put into their family home, it is very important that we ensure that we have the proper amount of oversight into those transactions and how they impact families in the province.

As noted by the minister on second reading, *The Real Estate Act* was enacted in 1995. At that point it provided for a hybrid model, as described by the minister, of regulation of realtors within the semi-autonomous Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission and also with oversight by an official with the Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan. So you have this hybrid model that provides oversight for the regulation of realtors within the province.

One of the things that I usually like to talk about, think about when I'm looking at a piece of legislation that's in front of us, is why this legislation is before us now and what consultation and research went into the bill before us. It seems largely, Mr. Speaker, that this is a largely housekeeping, updating piece of legislation. The minister did mention that he had worked with the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission as well as the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors in the development of these amendments. So I guess that provides a partial answer.

So what does this bill do? It sets out a number of things. It sets out the duties and objectives of the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission. I'll speak a little about that in a few minutes. Authorizes the appointment of either one or two members sitting at the commission. This is a change over the current.

It allows the commission to post its annual report on its website to make it available to everyone without the need to specifically request it. Certainly this seems to be a good measure, Mr. Deputy Speaker, any time we look at increasing transparency, of course using the tools that are available to us. Previously if someone wanted a copy of that they would have to ask for it. Now it would be available readily to the public who would be searching for it, and I think that certainly is a positive development.

This bill also allows the commission to maintain an electronic register. Again this is something that we've seen with previous pieces of legislation. I think of *The Agrologists Act*, where some of it is just updating the Act to ensure that we're taking full advantage of the tools that are available to us.

And again, similar to other legislation we've seen recently, it raises the fine amounts payable to the commission; I think moves some of those fines from a maximum of 5,000 up to \$25,000. Certainly when it hasn't been updated for decades, it does seem reasonable that those fine amounts would increase.

There's some changes that are made to the appeal process, and I think that our critic will have some more questions about that in committee. We want to make sure that any changes to the appeal process are fair, provide the right amount of oversight and redress for those who do enter into that appeal process.

Another aspect of this bill is it expands the amount of the assurance fund from a quarter of a million to \$350,000 and changes the notice period for claims on fund — all things that I think we'll delve further into committee and just ask, you know, why those particular changes were made, and why that notice of period for claims on the fund was made.

So again, this is an Act that does regulate and make changes to a body that regulates realtors in the province. And it is something that impacts the largest purchase that most people in this province will make in their lifetime, so that is, you know, having proper

oversight, having confidence in the real estate market in that purchasing of a home, that the professionals that you're coming into contact with who you are trusting with this very big financial decision, that that is properly regulated. I think that goes a way towards providing confidence for consumers when they're making this purchase.

[16:30]

However, Mr. Deputy Speaker, one of the things that we are unfortunately seeing in this province is an increasingly difficult real estate market in the province. We heard recently that 2018 was one of the worst years on record or the worst year on record since 2008.

In the spring we were looking at another bill and came across a posting around mortgage, mortgages in arrears in the province. A list of this is put out by the — I'm just going to pull it up here — the Canadian Bankers Association. And it confirmed what the real estate market has experienced over the last years, specifically the number of people who are experiencing mortgages in arrears in this province.

If you go back to 2018, the records of the Canadian Bankers Association, in 2008 rather, the Canadian average of mortgages in arrears was 0.33. In Saskatchewan that number was well below . . . 10 points below at 0.23. So that was 2008. A decade later, and again I'd mentioned we'd looked at these numbers in the spring, they've actually gotten worse since the most updated numbers came out in 2018, September 27th, and this is for data up to June 30th, 2018.

At that point the Canadian average for mortgages in arrears — that's defined by mortgages in arrears by more than 90 days in the province — the Canadian average was 0.23, so that average has gone down across Canada over the last decade. In Saskatchewan that number is now up to 0.78. That is the highest, highest number across Canada, and it certainly is concerning when you have triple, more than triple the Canadian average of mortgages in this province in arrears. I think it does signal some very concerning signals from our economy. And it's certainly what we've been hearing.

I've had the good fortune of being able to phone through and talk to a number of people in the constituency as of late. And one of the things that keeps coming up is affordability. People are struggling to keep up. People, certainly folks with lower income, but middle-income folks too, they cite increases to their property taxes.

We've certainly seen a lot of downloading by the government onto municipal governments, and that was certainly a big characteristic of the 2017 budget. We've seen an increase, a doubling of revenue from the PST [provincial sales tax] in the province and we're hearing from the construction industry particularly and the restaurant industry that that has had a huge impact. And all of that is undermining consumer confidence and the real estate market.

There certainly were some changes at the federal level to mortgage qualification, but many of these changes are within this government's purview and they have had devastating impacts on some families and industries.

I know that my colleague, the member for Regina Rosemont, relayed a conversation that he had had, a meeting that he had had with home builders in Moose Jaw recently. In Moose Jaw last year there were, I believe the number was 120 new housing starts. That number this year was 10. And you have, you know, not only the home builders but all of the subtrades that are very concerned about that development.

And you hear it in the funniest places, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had bought some plants off of VarageSale, which sometimes I do go on VarageSale. And I was at a house of a carpenter, and he relayed to me the number of cabinetmakers that he knew that had gone out of business in the last year. He didn't know what I did and I didn't prompt him. I asked him, what do you think accounts for all of that? And he said, well you know, the state of the economy and the application of PST onto construction in the province, he thought were major factors in that slowdown. And certainly he was concerned, was selling things on VarageSale because he was needing to make some money. And unfortunately that's something that we're hearing over and over again in the province.

We've seen an increase in bankruptcies, not only mortgages in arrears but the number of bankruptcies. This has been a trend that has been climbing over the last several years. They've really actually been climbing quite a bit since 2014. I know when I was . . . I think I've relayed this story here before but when I was on a doorstep as far back as 2016 talking to someone who worked in the field of bankruptcies and noting just the drastic number of increase in bankruptcy files that had been opened that year.

So this is an economy that is hurting, and certainly the real estate industry is a part of that and sometimes where you see that slowdown the most, one of the places that you see it relatively early in that cycle. We hear concerns about houses being slow on the market, slow to sell. We hear problems with an over-saturation of condominiums, an overbuild in that area.

And so all this to say, you know, the housekeeping is important. I don't think that there's a lot here but again the critic will have a closer look at this. But this is really rearranging of the deck chairs at a time when, you know, instead of housekeeping, we need to be very serious about a plan for this economy that doesn't disregard the needs of people who are just trying to pay their mortgage in the province. The impact of letting this go along three times the national average of mortgages in arrears is going to be felt eventually. It's being felt right across the province right now, but it is going to be felt in an increasing way across the province if there isn't a plan.

And so again I would beseech those who are making the decisions to stop rearranging the deck chairs and come up with a plan to ensure that people have the confidence that they need in order to maintain their homes and invest. We hear about people that are staying put. They're not looking at increasing, upsizing their house because they're not sure.

Certainly, you know, looking at a 3.5 per cent reduction in public sector compensation hasn't helped with people's confidence, nor has, you know, cutting jobs throughout the public service, in the film industry, in the education sector, as I hear from my neighbours so frequently.

So again I know that the critic will have more time with this bill, and have some of those questions hopefully answered in committee. But until then I think I will conclude my remarks on Bill No. 144 and move to adjourn debate.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Lakeview has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 144, *The Real Estate Amendment Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 145

[The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by the Hon. Mr. Merriman that **Bill No. 145** — *The Residential Services Act, 2018* be now read a second time.]

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Douglas Park.

Ms. Sarauer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's my honour to rise this afternoon and enter into the debate on Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act*. This bill actually repeals and replaces the old residential services Act, *The Residential Services Act, 1985*, which I understand has not been amended for quite some time, so this is quite, quite due.

This Act essentially regulates facilities that provide certain residential services, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It's a really important piece of legislation because it helps to dictate the rules around those who are providing homes to some of our society's most vulnerable people.

It also establishes a list of what support services can be offered in a care facility, which is very important. Like I said, these are vulnerable people and we want to ensure that they're receiving services that they need.

It also changes the proceedings with respect to the enforcement of the Act to ensure that there is proper compliance in this important area and therefore to make sure that the compliance of this legislation is appropriately followed and that the Act is enforced appropriately.

It also introduces a new clause on the protection of residents and includes a new clause on the appointment of an administrator who may act in the place of an operator of a care facility who fails to comply with prescribed requirements. It also updates references to "care facility" in other Acts, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

It's a bit difficult for me to be able to go through the entirety of the legislative changes without . . . When government repeals and replaces an entire bill, then we often have the problem of not receiving explanation notes because it is a complete repeal and replace of the bill, which does make, frankly, our work a little bit more difficult when we're . . . We have many, many responsibilities in a day. Being able to do a side-by-side comparison of old and new legislation is a bit difficult. I know that our critic will be doing that and I know she will be doing a fantastic job of that and will be asking appropriate questions at

committee as she always does. But I will do my best in this time to review the legislation and determine any concerns that there may be.

The first thing that this legislation does in part 2 is it talks about the licensing of the care homes and what's required for that licence. Of course if anyone wants to operate a care facility in the province, they need to be licensed pursuant to this Act which requires them to follow licence, or follow certain rules.

It says that there will be a fee required if you're going to apply for a licence and that any other rules around what's required will be set out in the regulations, which allows the fluidity for the ministry to be able to make changes as they see necessary, as the market changes, as the requirements, what's the standard practice in this area, changes, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Now the section 4 sets out what's actually required if . . . or what requirements the minister will need to see, will need to be satisfied with in an application to be able to approve a licence. They need to see that:

there is [first of all] a need for the operation of a care facility of the kind mentioned in the application;

[that] the care facility will be of benefit to persons who may be resident in that facility;

[that] the operation of that care facility is in the public interest; and

the person who made the application and the care facility that is the subject of the application meet any other prescribed requirements.

So again allowing for the opportunity of fluidity in this, should there be more requirements needed in the future.

There also is a more general term, stating that ". . . the minister may issue a licence on any terms and conditions that the minister considers appropriate," and the "licence may be issued for a period not exceeding 3 years."

And from reading the minister's remarks, I understand that the previous legislation had a limit on how long the licence could be issued for, to one year. It's now been extended to three years, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which creates the ability for these facilities to not have to make a reapplication every single year, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's good sides and bad sides to that. There could be some concerns about the ability of reissuing, and making that reapplication gives the opportunity to ensure that there still maintains compliance with the legislation. But it's also quite a burdensome responsibility on very, very busy care homes.

There's also the opportunity in section 5 for a conditional licence, should it be needed. And it states that:

. . . if a care facility does not comply with any provision of this Act or the regulations, or any term or condition imposed by the minister, the minister may issue a conditional licence to the care facility, for a period not exceeding 6 months, to

allow that care facility to comply with that provision.

[16:45]

And it also states, just to be clear, that:

No conditional licence . . . [can] be issued pursuant to . . . [that subsection] if the immediate health and safety of the residents of the care facility are at risk because of the non-compliance with this Act or the regulations, or any term or condition imposed by the minister.

So this section allows for the ability that even if they don't . . . even if a care facility doesn't comply with what is necessary to be able to be granted a licence in section 4, they can receive a conditional licence provided that any of their non-compliance doesn't have an impact on the immediate health and safety of the residents, doesn't put the residents at risk. So if there's other provisions that that care facility isn't quite following, that doesn't necessarily preclude an individual from getting a conditional licence for at least six months. It gives them the time to do the work that they need to do to step up their game in terms of ensuring that they do compliance, to comply with the Act.

Section 6 states that any licence that's granted pursuant to this legislation is not going to be transferable. So if one company buys another home, they can't transfer that licence to another company. Essentially someone would have to buy the entire company. Or usually these licences are given to companies and not individuals, to my knowledge. So it just requires a different kind of purchase agreement that would have to happen which allows for a little bit more structure in terms of not allowing somebody to essentially sell a licence or transfer a licence to another person.

It also provides, in section 7, the ability for the minister to cancel a licence or amend or suspend a licence. And that's if they find that the operator of a care facility has contravened any provisions of this Act or regulations, or any other terms or conditions that have been imposed by the minister, or if it's in the opinion of the minister that the premises with respect to which the licence is issued has become unsuitable for use as a care facility. This is an important section in the legislation, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It provides for the ability to ensure that there is safety and compliance of the legislation by the minister and by the permittees.

One question I would have is, what sort of resources are in place within the ministry in terms of ensuring that there is compliance? How often are they checking these homes to make sure that there is a continual compliance with the legislation? Who is on staff doing that? How many people are on staff and what sort of caseload do they have? I'm assuming there are quite a few of these types of homes in the province, so being able to ensure there is compliance would be a large task, especially a large task if the ministry is not properly or adequately equipped to do that work. I'm sure the ministry staff, they are very hard working, but they have a lot on their plate. And this is really crucial that we ensure that these care homes are maintained up to standard and that they are in the work that they do and the operators are in compliance with this legislation at all times.

There's also a review process in section 8 which allows a review

of any decision that the minister makes. It gives the individual who's aggrieved, essentially by the decision of the minister pursuant to this legislation, to make that application to have that decision reviewed. So if somebody's not happy that they did not receive a licence, there is then a process available to them through the legislation.

Part 3, Mr. Deputy Speaker, provides for some enforcement rules. Like I had been talking about already, it's important that there is an adequate amount of resources to be able to investigate and enforce this legislation. So section 9 gives the minister the authority to ". . . appoint any persons or category of persons as officers for the purpose of ensuring compliance with, or enforcing or overseeing the enforcement of, this Act and the regulations." So my question would be, how many officers are already there? How large is their caseload? And what sort of work are they doing?

Section 10 gives these officers the power to inspect, as well as the minister, to inspect care facilities, gives them the power to enter a care facility:

. . . to which a licence is issued and conduct an inspection or inquiry for the purpose of:

ensuring the safety and well-being of residents; or

administering this Act and the regulations.

So it gives them the authority to enter what would typically be a private residence, but for the purpose of this legislation it gives them the opportunity to . . . people to enter private residence and ensure that there's compliance within this legislation.

It also compels an operator to:

. . . at all reasonable times:

cause the care facility to be open for inspection by the minister or person appointed by the minister; and

cause all records relating to the operation of the care facility to be available for inspection, or for the purpose of obtaining copies or extracts, by the minister or person appointed by the minister.

So it provides the opportunity for the inspector . . . Or provides the obligation on the operator to also provide certain accessibility to the care facility as well as certain documentation. It does state that the occupant must consent to entry. Unless there is a warrant issued, the minister cannot enter that particular property. And it also states that:

No person shall obstruct or prevent any person who is authorized to make an entry pursuant to this section from entering any premises and carrying out an inspection pursuant to this section.

Section 11, Mr. Deputy Speaker, provides rules around applying for that warrant, what that warrant will look like. So that's typically an application without notice by the minister to a justice or a Provincial Court judge that there's certain information that's typically sworn under oath, that there's reasonable grounds to

believe that an offence against this legislation has occurred and therefore they should issue a warrant to allow them to enter that premise, search that premise, and often remove items or documents or property, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

There's also section 12, which provides for a warrant to provide access to an individual. So that compels, if a warrant is issued in a similar fashion, it compels a specific person to enter and search and examine in a place, exist or examine a resident, remove a resident from the premises, and seize or remove anything that may provide evidence of any threat to the resident's health and safety. It's a pretty extensive power should it be granted by a judge or a Justice of the Peace, but it's also a very important piece of ensuring compliance in this legislation.

Again, we're talking about very vulnerable people in this province, some of our most vulnerable people, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that are utilizing this service, that are utilizing care facilities. So it's important that we have extensive powers given to individuals, to officers in this case, to be able to inspect and investigate concerns with respect to care facilities. So it is important to see that there are wide-ranging powers.

But it is limited to seeking approval by a justice or Justice of the Peace, so it does allow that level of oversight and understanding that there is that level of compliance, so the officers can't necessarily enter private residences. They can't do anything they want. There is some subject to that and that is to ensure that they get a warrant, to ensure that there are reasonable grounds for that work to be done.

If there is an encroachment on an individual's personal liberties, an individual's personal property, an individual's private residence, it's important that there is that level of oversight, and that is what the warrant process provides, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But again that has to be balanced with ensuring that there is compliance with this legislation, and ensuring that those who are operating care facilities are doing so in a way that maintains the health and safety of the individuals who are using their care residences, the care facilities, and that it is being done in compliance with the legislation.

Part 4 deals specifically with the protection of residents, Mr. Deputy Speaker. And it actually defines in section 15 what abuse is in relation to a resident, and includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, verbal abuse, financial abuse, neglect, and any other proscribed form of abuse.

Section 16(1) talks about reporting abuse. And it states that:

. . . an operator or any employee or agent of an operator who has reasonable grounds to believe that there is or has been abuse involving a resident within a care facility shall report that abuse as soon as is reasonably possible to:

the minister or a person designated by the minister; or

a person appointed by the minister.

Subsection (2) states that "Subsection (1) applies notwithstanding that the information on which the belief is founded is confidential and its disclosure is prohibited pursuant to any other Act."

And subsection (3) states, "This section does not apply to information that is protected by solicitor-client privilege" which, you know, makes sense. That's standard. But I would add that, especially, none of this precludes an individual's obligation to also report this information to the police. It shouldn't be reported simply just to the minister or a person designated by the minister.

This is very serious stuff. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, even financial abuse, which we hear a growing amount happening to our elderly, is criminal in nature, Mr. Deputy Speaker. So I just want to put that on the record to make it clear that the obligation to — and there is — it says, "shall report that abuse." There's an obligation being put on individuals, on an operator or any employee or agent of an operator to report this to the minister. They should also be reporting this to the police as well. It's a very serious issue, especially when we're talking about, again when we're talking about such a vulnerable subset of people, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Section 17 provides for protection for anybody who does report abuse pursuant to this legislation. It states that "No action or other proceeding lies or shall be commenced against a person for reporting abuse pursuant to this part if the report is made in good faith." I'm guessing that's to prevent any sort of libel suit. It's to ensure that there shouldn't be a fear for anybody who has a good-faith concern about a potential abuse in a care facility, that they are to report it, first of all that they shall report it. They're obligated to report it to the minister and, I would say again, to the police as well, and that they should provide that and that they won't receive some sort of recourse for doing that.

It also states that real property and buildings — and this is section 18 — with respect to the care facility, will be exempt from taxation except local improvement taxes and special charges. Now I'm not a tax expert, so I don't really know the details of that, if that's a normal thing. I have heard some concerns about other buildings being tax exempt, the Brandt tower being built in Wascana Park, for example. I heard a lot of concerns about whether or not that one's going to be property tax exempt. This one probably is more reasonable, tax exemption probably more justified, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm not sure if the Brandt tower in Wascana Park is really a reasonable justification for not having to pay property taxes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know I'm going to have a lot of other colleagues who are going to be interested in entering into the debate on this bill. It's a very important piece of legislation.

Again, it hasn't been updated in many years, so I know our critic is going to do a great job of talking about this and asking questions, reaching out to stakeholders, and talking about that at committee. So I want to leave time and room for her to be able to do that good work. So at this point in time I'm ready to adjourn debate on Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The member from Regina Douglas Park has moved to adjourn debate on Bill No. 145, *The Residential Services Act, 2018*. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — It now being the normal time of

adjournment, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

[The Assembly adjourned at 17:00.]

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Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

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Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
Minister Responsible for Innovation

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Water
Security Agency
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan
Power Corporation

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Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Incorporated
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Water Corporation

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Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Crop
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